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Speaker Salmovitz set upon by MK mob

LIAT COLLINS

IN A scene reminiscent of a riot at a soccer stadium, scores of MKs lunged at Deputy Speaker Esther Salmovitz (Yi'ud) yesterday, following the first of two votes on Jerusalem.

Although the government narrowly won, angry coalition MKs raced up to the speaker's podium accusing Salmovitz of trying to trick them, by calling the vote when many coalition members were in the corridors.

Energy Minister Gonen Segov (Yi'ud) raised his fist to strike her while, pale and tearful, Salmovitz screamed back: "Shame on you. You should be ashamed of yourselves. Get away from here."

When the House Committee met later to discuss the outburst, Salmovitz said she was sure that she was only saved from physical harm by the intervention of the Knesset ushers and the fact that the speaker's seat is so high the MKs couldn't reach her.

When Salmovitz told the plenum that Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir had privately apologized for her behavior, Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur took the floor to say: "If you think it's right to tell the public what Namir told you in private, I think it worthwhile you tell them what I told you in private."



MK Esther Salmovitz (Jisac Harari)

The still-shaken Salmovitz responded: "I don't think the public ought to know what you said. I think it would embarrass you if I told the public the words you use."

The words that Salmovitz couldn't bring herself to repeat were "your conduct is whorish."

The House Committee issued a statement condemning the incident. It forwarded the matter to the Knesset Presidium.

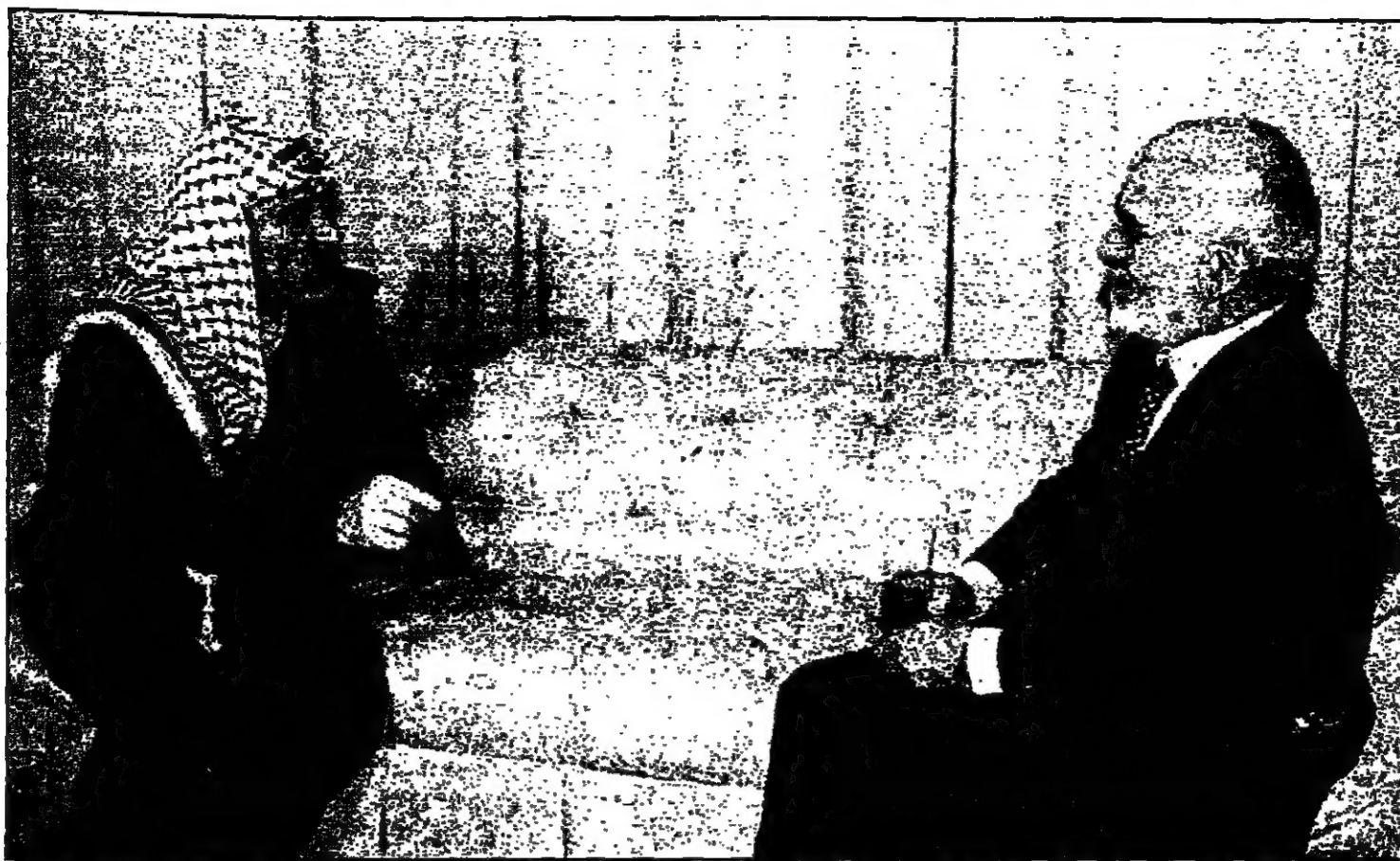
The uproar followed an emotional morning in which several bills on the status of Jerusalem and the freeing of Palestinian prisoners were discussed.

The opposition narrowly lost the two Jerusalem bills. A joint bill by Yehoshua Matza (Likud) and Emanuel Zissman (Labor) to include Givat Ze'ev and Ma'aleh Adumim within Jerusalem's municipal borders was defeated 52-51. Both Zissman and Avigdor Kahalani (Labor) voted for the bill and against the coalition.

Another bill, by Avraham Herschson (Likud), proposed that any amending of the Jerusalem Law would require a majority of 80 MKs. It also failed, 47-44; Kahalani abstained.

Herschson, more than Salmovitz, was the actual catalyst for the uproar. When he took to the podium to address the plenum, most coalition MKs left the room believing they had five minutes before the vote. When the Likud whip noticed their absence, he motioned to Herschson, who abruptly stepped down. Salmovitz then began the vote.

Kahalani's vote, Page 2
The Knesset 'zoo', Page 2



PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat talks with Jordan's King Hussein yesterday in Amman; their first meeting since last May. (Story, Page 2)

(Reuters)

Soldier killed in Lebanon shooting accident

Two soldiers wounded in clash; three terrorists killed

DAVID RUDGE

AN IDF soldier was killed in a shooting accident in the security zone yesterday. Two others were wounded - one of them critically - in a clash in which at least three Hizbullah gunmen were killed.

Staff-Sgt. Moshe Ohayon, 20, of Afula, died when a mortar shell exploded in its launcher. The accident happened shortly after 1 a.m. at an outpost in the eastern sector of the zone.

Ohayon was buried in the Afula Military Cemetery yesterday evening.

QC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Avraham Levie appointed a senior officer to investigate the accident. Northern Command sources said the probable cause of accident was the soldiers loading two shells into the mortar at the same time.

The clash, near Beit Leif in the western sector of the zone, just two kilometers north of Moshav Zarit, sparked heavy fighting.

The IDF spokesman said that during the course of the gun battles, three terrorists were killed

and two of soldiers were wounded.

The two wounded soldiers, Liron Bainwall, 19, of Jerusalem, and Muhsan Barakat, 47, of Kfar Yarka in the western Galilee, were being evacuated by helicopter - one to Haifa's Rambam Hospital and the other to Nahariya Government Hospital.

Prof. Eddie Carmeli, deputy director at Rambam, said doctors and staff were fighting to save Bainwall's life. He suffered "extremely severe" head wounds and leg wounds.

Bainwall was reported to be a graduate of the Renc Cassin High School in Jerusalem, which has lost six of its graduates in the past few months.

Barakat suffered moderately-to-seriously wounds in the chest, abdomen, and groin. He underwent surgery and was reported in stable condition.

The clash started around 6 a.m., when three gunmen were

spotted in the Beit Leif area, and troops from the Nahal Brigade began to pursue them.

"This was about two kilometers from the border, in an area where the terrain is difficult and the vegetation thick. Artillery, tanks, mortars, and helicopters participated in the chase," said Col. I., one of the commanders in the region.

"The Nahal soldiers did very well. They killed them in three encounters. In the first clash, one of our soldiers was wounded; in the second, we killed one of the terrorists, but two got away; in the third clash, the troops killed the remaining terrorists," he said.

"They confronted them, charged, and wiped them out. That's how it should be."

In the third of the clashes, the officer in charge of the trackers was wounded.

Col. I. said the terrorists were heavily armed, although it was not clear whether they had in-

tended to try and reach the border, or had planned to ambush IDF or South Lebanese Army troops inside the zone.

Levine conducted an on-the-spot debriefing with the officers and soldiers involved in the incident and praised their performance.

Hizbullah gunmen, later joined by those from the rival Amal Shi'ite movement, then fired Katyusha rockets, anti-tank missiles, and heavy machine guns at the IDF troops and the helicopters.

IDF and SLA gunners then blasted the positions of the terrorists north of the zone. The exchanges continued for several hours.

Later in the day, gunmen opened fire with mortars at IDF and SLA positions near Beit Leif and Talousa.

There were no casualties in those attacks and IDF and SLA gunners returned fire. Lebanese radio stations said a mosque, the community center, and several homes were damaged in Majdal Salim, north of the zone.

Abu Mazen book says six million is a lie

Israeli delegation arrives in Auschwitz

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

MAHMOUD Abbas (Abu Mazen), chief architect of the Oslo accords and cosigner of the 1993 Declaration of Principles in Washington, is the author of a book that questions the veracity of the Holocaust and the number of Jews killed, the Simon Wiesenthal Center charged yesterday.

The book also states that the Zionist movement was a Nazi partner in the slaughter of Jews, the center said.

In a letter to Abbas, the center asked that he make clear whether he still agreed with the slander in the book. *The Other Side: The Secret Relationship Between Nazism and the Zionist Movement*, or whether he had changed his mind.

The book, published in 1983, says the figure of six million Jews killed was deliberately inflated by Zionists, and that no one knows whether the actual figure is six million or less than one million.

The book also misquotes noted Holocaust scholar Raul Hilberg as saying only 890,000 Jews died in the Holocaust, according to the Wiesenthal Center.

Elsewhere, the book reportedly says that the Zionist movement supported the Nuremberg Laws and later deliberately withheld information about the mass murder of European Jewry.

Meanwhile, a government delegation led by Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss arrived in Poland yesterday to participate in the main ceremony tomorrow, marking the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

Weiss said Israelis and Poles shared a common tragedy at the hands of the Nazis and need to work together to fight racism and antisemitism.

"Germans chose Poland to murder a majority of Jews here. This is our common tragedy,"

Weiss said, after meeting with Polish Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak.

"This is why we have to build a different future together," the Polish-born Weiss told journalists. "It is important that our youth and your youth fight together against racism, xenophobia and antisemitism."

Others in the delegation include Deputy Speaker MK Dov Shilansky, Dr. Yosef Burg, chairman of the International Yad Vashem Council, Prof. Yisrael Guttman, editor-in-chief of the *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust*, and Yad Vashem director Avner Shalev.

At Auschwitz yesterday, New York Rabbi Avi Weiss was detained by Polish police after refusing to leave a church next to Birkenau that he had been occupying in protest.

Weiss was dragged from the church after spending seven hours inside.

He had been protesting against the presence of the church at the place where more than 1.35 million Jews were murdered, and had threatened to stay during the ceremonial events today and tomorrow.

The parish priest at the church, Jozef Swiecinski, had canceled an evening mass and asked Weiss to leave the building three times while his congregation waited outside.

"If you do not leave, I have no choice but to call the police," the priest told Weiss.

"This church is a violation of international law," the rabbi retorted.

After a second priest remonstrated with Weiss, two police officers entered the church and pulled him outside. Parishioners applauded and cheered as he was removed. Three of Weiss's followers were expelled later.

US fund-raisers reject Leket, Burg for Agency

BATSHEVA TSUR

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin is to meet this afternoon with Meir Kaplan, head of the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors, to discuss the Labor Party candidates for the agency's chairmanship.

The meeting comes following the rejection - at a meeting of the 10-member "advise and consent" committee in New York on Tuesday - of both candidates: Acting Chairman Yehiel Leket and MK Avraham Burg.

Each of the candidates appeared before the committee to outline his plans and vision for the future of the agency and relations with the Diaspora.

The committee must consent to the candidates, before the Labor Party votes on its choice for chairman. Earlier, the two had spent weeks trying to garner support.

Officially, the committee announced it had "failed to reach a decision" on the candidates, and said it would continue its deliberations when the Board of Governors convenes next month in Jerusalem.

Committee sources said that four members would arrive early to meet with Rabin.

One of the proposals reportedly brought up at the meeting was that the chairmanship be split in two, creating an "executive president" and a "representative president." This was rejected out of hand by Leket.

Immediately afterward, Kaplan left New York for Jerusalem.

Commenting on the proposal to split the chairmanship, Leket said: "This is neither logical nor economically feasible." He said it would lead to duplication and waste a great deal of money, and damage the already tarnished image of the agency.

Burg was not available for comment.

In a letter to the committee prior to its meeting, Rabin had appealed to the members to "give their consent to both candidates."

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Gov't panel gives OK to build near capital

HERB KEINON and DAVID MAKOVSKY

CONSTRUCTION in three settlements around Jerusalem will continue, although at a slower pace than originally planned, the new ministerial committee on settlements decided yesterday.

The committee, set up Sunday to monitor construction in the settlements, gave the green light for construction of 1,080 housing units in Ma'aleh Adumim in 1995. But the government said that instead of selling all the units in 1995, 500 would be sold this year, and the rest next year.

In addition, the committee approved plans for the construction of 900 additional units in Betar, and plans to build 800 in Givat Ze'ev.

The committee also approved the continued construction of 1,026 units in Betar that began four months ago, 797 units in the early stages of construction in Ma'aleh Adumim and the completion of some 340 units going up in Givat Ze'ev.

The committee also approved the government-initiated building of 50 housing units in the Jordan Valley.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said last night that the committee also approved the continued building of 7,000 units already in advanced stages of construction. Israel Radio reported.

"In the face of unequivocal demands to freeze all the building, the construction continues," Housing Minister Binjamin Ben-Eliezer told reporters after the committee's meeting. "The pace is different. What was meant [to be sold] in one year, will be spread over two years. I am definitely satisfied."

The decision falls short of Palestinian and Meretz demands to impose a full construction freeze in "Greater Jerusalem."

"Some of the decisions were taken unanimously and there were disagreements regarding others," Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein said of yesterday's committee meeting. He said that he and fellow Meretz committee member Shulamit Aloni were "true to our world outlook" during the meeting.

The decision to go ahead with construction drew immediate fire from the Palestinian Authority. The Associated Press quoted PLO chief Yasser Arafat, who is in Amman, as suggesting that the decision violated a promise "that they would not expand settle-

ments or increase their numbers."

Palestinian Housing Minister Zakaria Agha was quoted as warning that "settlement activities violate the [peace] agreement and endanger the whole peace process."

After the meeting, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin invited the heads of Betar, Givat Ze'ev and Ma'aleh Adumim to discuss construction around Jerusalem. The three heads agreed to come only if the heads of the Gush Etzion and Efrat local councils - part of the Greater Jerusalem Forum - were also invited. The committee yesterday did not deal with construction in Efrat or Gush Etzion.

Betar Local Council head Moshe Leibowitz said that Rabin assured the forum that building around Jerusalem would continue, "even if it is called something other than Greater Jerusalem."

Leibowitz said that as far as Betar is concerned, he is satisfied by the committee's decision. "From our standpoint nothing has changed," he said. "We are continuing with our plans."

Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel said that what bothers him is not the committee's decisions yesterday, but rather the very existence of the committee itself.

"We expressed our opposition to the committee," Kashriel said of his meeting with Rabin, "and asked him to do away with it. I am worried that the committee will tie our hands in the future. It can always come and cancel projects. We will continue to fight to get rid of the committee."

The Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza harshly condemned yesterday's decisions.

"By setting up this committee, the government has put Greater Jerusalem under the scrutiny of a 'freezing microscope,'" council spokesman Yehiel Leiter said.

"True, they didn't stop all building right away, they could have gone further. But when someone amputates my arms and legs, I don't thank him for not amputating my head."

Leiter said that some 2,700 housing units planned for Greater Jerusalem will now not be built. He said the committee will always be able to revoke plans that it has already approved, such as the 900 units to be built in Betar, if the government comes under pressure from the Palestinians or the US government.

Peace Now also came out (Continued on Page 2)

ISRAEL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY Head Office

Notice to Purchasers of the Documentation for
TENDER 31/94/KUF FOR THE SUPPLY OF FOOD AND PROVISIONING SERVICES FOR EL-AL AIRCRAFT
Published by El-Al Israel Airlines

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Kahalani: Rabin tried to influence my vote

'I will continue to fight from within'

LABOR MK Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had met with him before yesterday's vote on extending Jerusalem's borders to include Ma'aleh Adumim and Givat Ze'ev to try to persuade him to toe the party line.

"Rabin tried to persuade me to not support the bill but I wasn't persuaded," Kahalani told *The Jerusalem Post*. He voted against the government, which nonetheless defeated the measure by one vote.

Kahalani said, however, that this did not mean he was considering leaving the party. "I will continue to fight from within, as this is the only way I can have any

LIAT COLLINS

influence," he said.

On Tuesday, Kahalani voted with the coalition and helped defeat a no-confidence motion on the building freeze in the Greater Jerusalem area. He said yesterday that he had not supported the no-confidence motion because he had been promised that construction was not being halted.

Before the appointment of the ministerial committee established to rule on construction plans, Kahalani had threatened to boycott the no-confidence vote.

The vote yesterday, he said, "was different. It was not a no-confidence motion but about Je-

rusalem, the very heart of the Jewish people. It is the answer I wanted to give to all the despicable terrorists to show them that murdering our children just strengthens us. Sunday's attack just strengthened my identity as a Jew and an Israeli."

Next week the Knesset is scheduled to discuss a bill by Kahalani which demands that any sort of change in the Golan Heights Law would require a special majority.

Although this bill has also incurred the wrath of coalition members, Kahalani said he did not feel like a lone wolf.

"The people of Israel are with me," he said.

Rabin should swap plenum for press

COMMENT

DAVID MAKOVSKY

YESTERDAY'S pandemonium in the Knesset reinforces an embittered Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's belief that the plenum is a zoo.

Rabin cannot escape the sharp contrast between the visibly-intense partisanship of yesterday's raucous Knesset debate and another parliamentary event a few hours earlier, halfway around the world. President Bill Clinton was accorded great bipartisan courtesy when he made his State of the Union address. Indeed, Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich announced it was his "high honor" to introduce Clinton.

In private conversation this week, Rabin made clear that he wished a little more of Washington's treatment of its president would rub off on Jerusalem.

One senses that after having to deal with Knesset opponents and protesters incessantly shouting at

him since the Oslo Accords were signed, Rabin has become more contemptuous of those who bait him.

Having won a Nobel Peace Prize and been toasted around the world as a great figure of the 20th century, Rabin finds it even more demeaning to be subjected to howls of derision at home. He is becoming increasingly furious at having to deal with messy aspects of Israel's often shrill and disorderly democracy.

In private conversation, the prime minister sounds particularly scornful when listing some of his most vocal opponents in the Likud, who charge that he doesn't care enough about security.

Rabin starts ticking off the personal military backgrounds of several of his critics, saying they

have gall to criticize him, when their own records are so poor. He charged some in the opposition with being "deserters" or "fascists."

To be fair, it should be noted that his views about his own cabinet ministers are not exactly laudatory, either.

These rivals and others charge it is undemocratic for him to avoid addressing the Knesset plenum.

Sources say Rabin admitted privately that he favored a national address on television this week over an appearance in the plenum, because he believed that in the Knesset, hecklers would not allow him to finish a single sentence.

Rabin regularly briefs the Knesset Foreign Affairs and De-

fense Committee. But he has walked out of the plenum on a number of occasions due to jeering, and insists he is so fed up he does not want to address it anymore.

The prime minister is surely correct in believing that the public is not well served by circus in the plenum. But the alternative should not be the avoidance of public scrutiny.

Instead, like in the US, he should subject himself to regular televised press conferences, at which he would be forced to respond to questions on political, military, economic, and social issues.

Rabin's willingness to do this would demonstrate that he is serious about wanting American political culture to rub off on Israel. And it would certainly serve the people better than confining himself to making angry remarks about rival MKs.



Energy Minister Gonen Segev (center) visits the country's largest power plant, the Maor David power station in Hadera, yesterday. At right is Israel Electric Corporation Managing Director Rafi Peled. (Paul Melting)

Arafat, Hussein meet in bid to improve cooperation

AMMAN (Reuters) — PLO leader Yasser Arafat and King Hussein met yesterday for the first time since last May, to try to chart a new cooperative course in Palestinian-Jordanian relations.

State television showed the king visiting Arafat at a state guest house and later receiving him for talks at his palace in the heart of Amman.

Jordan hopes to improve ties with the PLO leader, who was angered when last October's Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty gave Jordan priority in administering Islamic sites in eastern Jerusalem.

Prime Minister Shafiq Zaid Bin Shaker, who met Arafat at the airport, told parliament earlier that Jordan would back the PLO's drive for an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Bin Shaker indicated to parliament that Jordan was implementing a more cautious foreign policy following its treaty with Israel.

Arafat and the king, after nearly three decades of

often stormy relations, were to sign an accord on future Jordanian-Palestinian ties and the status of the Islamic sites in Jerusalem.

"Our effort, doubtless to say, is to achieve more Arab solidarity and unify Arab ranks," Arafat told reporters.

Bin Shaker, named to form a government this month to replace one that secured the peace treaty with Israel, emphasized Jordan's desire to restore ties with the Arab world.

Diplomats said the government needs to show caution on Israel since many Jordanians remain skeptical of the abrupt move to full peace.

Marwan Kanafani, an advisor and spokesman to Arafat said that cooperation with Jordan was necessary in all fields since the Jordanian and Palestinian people are closely linked. Cooperation, he said, also includes coordination on security issues.

Lamia Lahoud contributed to this report.

Israel, Jordan at impasse over aviation agreement

TRANSPORTATION Minister Yisrael Kassar said yesterday he does not believe that there will be an aviation agreement between Israel and Jordan in the near future.

Kassar said that the aviation talks have reached a stalemate over the issue of the route Jordanian aircraft are to take over Israel. The Jordanians have asked for an air corridor at 11,000 feet, but the Israelis are insisting that the Jordanian planes fly at a far higher altitude.

"We have offered them the best possible terms without hurting the air force," Kassar said, referring to the fact that Israel is demanding the higher altitude so as to avoid interference with air force training flights.

As a result of the stalemate, Kassar added, there also would be no agreement between Royal Jordanian Airlines and El Al. An agreement between the two

HAIM SHAPIRO and JOSE ROSENFIELD

would make it possible for tourists to arrive at either Amman or Ben-Gurion and leave from the other airport, thus making tourist packages to the area more attractive.

Kassar said he was convinced that eventually the two countries would come to an agreement on the issue. At the present, he said, the Jordanians needed the agreement far more than Israel did, since El Al would not be able to utilize the right to overfly Jordanian air space until Saudi Arabia gave permission as well.

However, he added, Israel still wanted the aviation agreement to go through, mainly in order to strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

Meanwhile, trade talks with Jordan hit a snag yesterday, leading the sides to miss the deadline

for reaching an agreement that was jointly set by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein two weeks ago.

According to a source close to the negotiations, the sides are stuck over the list of items that will be entitled to lower duties, as well as the extent of the reduction in duties.

Israeli officials were not concerned about the delay, saying that they expected that by next week the problems could be overcome.

The Most Favored Nation trade agreement aims to remove all import restrictions, while affording the parties preferential treatment in terms of lower duties on imports.

The parties have agreed that due to Israel's more developed economy, more Jordanian goods will benefit from preferential treatment as well as from overall lower duties.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Teenager shot to death in areas

A teenager died in a Nabulus hospital after being shot in nearby Ein Bet Ilma refugee camp yesterday. The IDF was investigating the cause of the shooting.

Local sources identified the boy as Mohammed Abed Ghani, 14, and said he was shot by an army patrol while leaving school. Hundreds attended his funeral.

Meanwhile, the Ramallah Military Court extended the remand of 15 people arrested in connection with the attack on reserve soldier Shmuel Meiri in Ramallah last month.

Corpse found in Jerusalem

The badly decomposed body of a man was found in an empty building on Salah E-Din Street in Jerusalem yesterday afternoon. Police had no immediate leads in the case.

The body was found by chance when someone entered the building, the police spokesman said. It was impossible to say how the man died, the spokesman added.

Police sent the body to the Institute for Forensic Medicine at Abu Kabir, in the hopes of uncovering more information.

Avraham Shusterman, aliya official, dies

Avraham (Shusty) Shusterman, who managed the reception center for new immigrants at Ben-Gurion Airport for the last 20 years, died this week at age 65. Over the years, he welcomed thousands of newcomers from all over the world to the country.

He is survived by his wife, a son, and a daughter. Another son was killed while serving in the Golani Brigade during the war in Lebanon.

Auction of masks to be beamed abroad

The international auction of masks decorated by Israeli dignitaries and international film stars and musicians, to be held on January 29, will be beamed from Tel Aviv to Eilat and points abroad by videoconference. The sale of the masks, to benefit AKIM (the Israel Association of Mentally Disabled Children), will be carried out by Sotheby's.

Bezek said yesterday that it has supplied Akim with infrastructure and broadcast time to New York, Antwerp, Paris, and Eilat.

Rabin may intervene over kibbutz debt

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told kibbutz members yesterday that he would become involved in the kibbutz debt arrangement if the kibbutz movements and the Treasury cannot reach agreement.

He said this at a meeting with 30 kibbutz representatives.

Arab students show lack of motivation

Despite increased government spending on education in the Arab sector, children are not succeeding at school because they are not properly motivated, representatives of the Mothers' School said at a Jerusalem press conference yesterday.

The Mothers' School is a project designed to generate educational awareness among Arab mothers.

What is needed is to restructure the role of the mother in the Arab home to help her motivate her children to learn, but it is also necessary for attitudes towards Arabs within Israeli society to change, mothers at the press conference said.

Marie-Helene Boccara

One dead, two seriously hurt in crash

One man was killed and two others seriously injured yesterday in a car accident at the southern entrance to Haifa. The accident occurred when a car traveling from Tel Aviv to Haifa swerved into a tree. The driver was killed on the spot. A Magen David Adom ambulance took the injured to Rambam Hospital.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the queen of spades, 10 of hearts, nine of diamonds, and eight of clubs.

FM appoints series of diplomatic posts

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE Foreign Ministry appointments committee, headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, last night appointed ambassadors to France, Spain, Canada, the Czech Republic, South Korea, Australia, Brazil, Uruguay, and Vietnam.

All those named were career diplomats or other Foreign Ministry officials.

Notably absent was any announcement about who would be the first ambassador to Jordan. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres are still at loggerheads over whether to send the deputy head of the Mossad — and long-time acquaintance of King Hussein — Ephraim Halevy, as the premier would like, or to send a professional diplomat, as Peres would prefer.

Avi Pazner, long-time spokesman for former premier Yitzhak Shamir, was named ambassador to Paris last night.

When Shamir was prime minister, Pazner thought he was guaranteed the ambassadorial posting in Paris, only to see it slip away in a fight between Shamir and then-foreign minister David Levy. Instead, Pazner became ambassador to Italy in 1991. He performed there impressively for Peres sides.

Ehud Gol, who replaced Pazner as Shamir's spokesman and subsequently became head of Israel's Third World foreign as-

stance program, was named ambassador to Madrid.

Robbie Sabel, former Foreign Ministry legal adviser and a delegate to the Middle East peace talks before taking academic leave, was named to the top slot in Ottawa.

Rafi Gvir, Israel's ambassador to Switzerland and a former diplomatic aide to Binyamin Netanyahu, was named envoy to Prague.

Arye Arazi, head of one of the ministry's Asian divisions, was named ambassador to South Korea; Shmuel Moyal, currently Israel's ambassador to Fiji, was named to Australia; Jackie Keinan, head of African affairs, was posted to Brazil; Yair Ben-Shlomo, a diplomat dealing with Latin American affairs, was named to Uruguay; and Uri Halfon, who served in administration, was named to Vietnam.

On the consul-general level, Yehudi Keinar, formerly ministry head of Diaspora affairs, was posted to Toronto and Zion Evroni, formerly in charge of academic affairs in New York, was posted to Houston.

Under the agreement with the Foreign Ministry diplomatic workers committee, Labor still has two political appointments it can make now that two Likud political appointees — Yehuda Lankri in Paris and Dror Zeigerman in Toronto — have completed their respective terms.

Bill allows settlers to retain 7% tax break for two years

HERB KEINON

JEWISH residents of the territories will retain their 7 percent tax break for at least two years, as a result of a bill that passed the Knesset yesterday.

Under the bill, settlements in the territories will remain on the list of development and border towns that are to retain various levels of tax breaks until the end of 1996. This system of tax breaks was developed some 20 years ago to encourage development in areas that were considered to be of national priority.

When the Rabin government came to power in 1992, many of the benefits the settlements received were rescinded as part of

the government's "re-ordering of priorities." Among the benefits lost were preferential mortgage terms and free pre-schools. These breaks were rescinded by governmental decision.

Taking away the tax break, which a number of Meretz and Labor MKs advocated, necessitated Knesset legislation. Such legislation was resisted not only by settlement heads but by development town mayors.

The latter also faced a change in the benefits to their towns as a result of the work of the Shevas committee, which drew up a new map of areas to be given government benefits.

(Continued from Page One)

against the committee's decision. The group released a statement saying that "there can be no separation of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples while there is continued expansion of settlements."

In the US, a senior administration official was noncommittal about the decisions, saying: "Obviously, this is an issue that is not resolved in the Israeli cabinet."

HILLEL KUTTNER and news agencies

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton implored the world community Tuesday night to join the US in combating terrorism.

In his annual State of the Union address, Clinton said: "Tonight I call on all our allies and peace-loving nations throughout the world to join us with renewed fervor in a global effort to fight terrorism. We cannot permit the future to be marred by terror and fear and paralysis."

Clinton's reference was to the directive he had signed earlier in the day freezing the assets here of terrorist organizations.

In that directive, the White House said it was asserting leadership against terrorism because others were not.

Earlier in the evening, the Senate passed a resolution, 96-0, calling on PLO Chief Yasser Arafat to "take immediate steps to bring to justice those responsible" for

recent Palestinian terrorism. It urged him to take steps to prevent future acts of terrorism from territory under the PA's control.

The resolution also said Syrian President Hafez Assad should stop supporting and providing a safe haven for terrorist groups.

Clinton's speech to a joint session of Congress barely touched on international affairs. But in an unusual gesture, Clinton expressed sorrow at Sunday's Beit Lid attack.

"On behalf of the American people, and all of you [in Congress], I send our deepest sympathies to the families of the victims," he said.

"I know that in the face of such evil, it is hard for the people in the Middle East to go forward," he added. "But the terrorists re-

resent the past, not the future. We must and we will pursue a comprehensive peace between Israel and her neighbors in the Middle East."

In Beirut, Islamic and radical Palestinian groups said that President Clinton's decision to freeze the assets of groups and individuals he accused of terrorism will not stop the violence.

The most notorious groups cited by Clinton, including Islamic Jihad from Damascus and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, both issued statements saying they had no assets in the United States, and would therefore not be affected by the measure.

GOP reaction to speech, Page 4

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סניף מרכזי



A policeman displays some of the gambling equipment confiscated in a raid on a Tel Aviv casino yesterday. (Ailon Ron/Israel Sun)

Police raid Tel Aviv casino

RAINE MARCUS

TEL AVIV detectives raided an illegal casino early yesterday morning, seizing blackjack and roulette equipment, chips, around NIS 12,000 cash, and arresting 120 gamblers and managers.

Eight dealers and managers were detained and are expected to appear before a judge this morning, while the rest were released on bail.

Police sources said the raid was made to gather information on Gad "Shatz" Plum and other casino owners, especially following recent attempts on the lives of other underworld figures.

Plum, a partner in the casino and a prominent underworld figure in the '70s, returned from Germany about six months ago, where he served 13 years in jail for murder.

Upon his return, Plum maintained his innocence and his intention to go straight. But police sources said recently that underworld figures here had helped him readjust by offering him a partnership in the casino.

Last week, Moshe "Mussa" Alperon, 42, also a casino owner, was seriously wounded

when a bomb placed under his car exploded.

No one has been arrested in connection with the attempted murder. Police questioned Alperon yesterday at Ichilov Hospital.

Ilan Aslan, 30, brother of the late gangster Yehzekiel Aslan, who was assassinated two years ago, is recovering from gunshot wounds, after unknown gunmen tried to murder him on January 17.

Aslan, who owns video-game clubs and snooker halls and has a criminal record for drug offenses, was also questioned by detectives.

C'tee: Bezek must install more pay phones

EVELYN GORDON

BEZEK will soon be required to install telephones in a number of public places so that consumers will not be forced to rely on more expensive private pay phones, the Communications Ministry told the Knesset State Control Committee's consumer affairs subcommittee yesterday.

The announcement came in response to a complaint by subcommittee chairman Ra'anan Cohen (Labor), who charged that the private pay phones oppress the

consumer. The private phones charge NIS 1 per phone unit, and do not give change, while Bezek phones cost NIS 0.50 per unit and do give change.

In many places, Cohen said, the private phones are replacing Bezek phones, and since Bezek sells the phones to the private companies it does not necessarily have any incentive to stop this.

Shlomo-Was, Communications

Ministry director-general, responded that the ministry was aware of the problem, and therefore was working on an amendment to the Bezek Law which would require Bezek to install its pay phones in numerous public places. These would include hospitals, hotels, beaches, educational institutes, ports, airports, malls, terminals and gas stations.

The company is already re-

quired to install pay phones on street corners.

As long as Bezek phones are installed in all public places, Wax continued, there is no reason why businesses should not be able to install private pay phones.

Cohen said the ministry's plan appeared as if it would solve the problem, but warned that if private phones continued to grab an increasing share of the market, he would introduce legislation to impose price controls on them.

Deri trial witness again recants testimony

CONTRACTOR Shlomo Levy yesterday again recanted testimony made to police in the Deri trial.

Levy had told police that six members of the Har Shmuel Residents Association, headed by Aryeh Deri, were added to a list of purchasers sent to the Ziv committee in a request for alternative land, despite the fact that they had not purchased plots at the original Nebi Samwil site.

The prosecution claims the allotting of plots to the six was part of the bribes paid to Deri and his co-defendants, Moshe and Aryeh Weinberg, as part of an attempt by the Moresheet Binyamin Housing Company and the residents association to get the government to provide alternative land.

The Ziv committee ruled that

alternative land would be allocated only to the purchasers of the plots, based on a list to be provided by Moresheet Binyamin, and not to Moresheet Binyamin itself.

Yesterday, in Jerusalem District Court, lawyers for Moshe and Aryeh Weinberg showed Levy the list given to the Ziv committee, which showed that three of the six people in question had indeed paid for plots.

Levy then told the court he wanted to retract the statement he gave to the police, in which he said all six had gotten plots illegally.

Asked why he had made that claim, Levy said he had failed to read the document properly when he testified to police, and that police had pressured him.

(Itim)

Weizmans welcome international storytellers

BATSHEVA TSUR

INSTEAD of making a speech, Reuma Weizman welcomed her guests to Beit Hamasi yesterday by telling them an Arabic folktale about a prince and a waterwheel.

The 30 people gathered casually in the presidential sitting room were delighted. They were all participants in a week-long celebration to mark the 10th anniversary of the Center for Storytellers at Beit Ariela in Tel Aviv, and had quite a few stories to tell themselves. They hailed from as far off as Trinidad and the US, Sweden, Ireland, and Scotland.

The conference is under the patronage of Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo and the Education Ministry.

Druse Sheikh Ismael Kablan, one of the Israeli participants, told a family saga. He had come from his native Syria in the late 1940s to fight against Israel, but was asked by residents of Ushiya and Daliat al-Carmel to remain. Eventually, after making "a covenant of friendship with Israel," and with the aid of David Ben-Gurion, he brought a wife from Lebanon.

Dina Hasson, in a 60-year-old dress brought by her grandmother from Uzbekistan, recited a traditional Bukharan Jewish folktale. "I feel I can get right inside my grandmother's personality when I wear her clothes," she remarked.

"All these folktales have in common some sort of confrontation between a weak and strong person or animal," said Prof. Dov Noy, who heads the Hebrew University's folklore department. "They reach both ear and heart, and form a link between different generations."

Israel's Folktale Archive contains some 20,000 such stories, he said.

Ever ready to spin a yarn, President Ezer Weizman joined the group. After hearing that the sheikh had told his marriage story, Weizman related how he had courted Reuma after he saw her hitching a ride.

'CIS residents coming for free medical care'

JUDY SIEGEL

THE authorities are getting worried about a growing number of Jews and people of Jewish origin from the CIS who come for free medical treatment here with no intention of staying, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

One controversial case involved Ludmilla Gottlieb, 36, who arrived from Ukraine last week suffering from kidney cancer. The Interior Ministry has not recognized her as an immigrant, because she came on a tourist visa with her husband, but without her two young children, who remained at home. The authorities have claimed she has no intention of immigrating, but came only to get free medical care that is unavailable in the Ukraine.

However, the family insists that she started "immigration procedures" before she was sick, and that they were not completed in time. When she learned she was seriously ill, the family said, she decided to come as a tourist without an immigrant's visa.

Five days after her arrival, she was hospitalized and applied for immigrant status.

No comment was available last night from the Interior Ministry.

Although Jews can legally demand citizenship upon immigration, the Interior Ministry has the right to reject those it suspects of being here only to collect immi-

grant benefits.

Absorption Ministry spokesman Amnon Be'eri said his ministry deals only in people officially recognized as immigrants. After calls from family and hospital officials, Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban contacted Health Ministry Director-General Mordechai Shani, who gave instructions that Gottlieb be transferred to Sheba Hospital, where doctors specialize in her condition.

However, the Health Ministry said that it made no commitment to cover the costs of her treatment. Sheba spokeswoman Adina Laub said it was not clear who would pay, but that she was admitted "because it was a matter of life and death."

Tzaban: Stigma given to CIS olim

LIAT COLLINS

ABSORPTION Minister Yair Tzaban told the Knesset plenum yesterday that a hysterical campaign is being waged against the immigrants from the former Soviet Union, giving them the stigma of being non-Jews.

"Ninety-eight percent of all CIS immigrants are Jewish themselves, married to Jews or have a Jewish parent. Only 0.2 percent of them are non-Jewish parents of non-Jewish spouses," Tzaban said.

He was answering a parliamentary question by MK Avraham Verdiger (United Torah Judaism) who said: "We must block the loopholes to reduce to a minimum the numbers of Gentiles mixing among us."

Tzaban said he generally opposed searching family trees but offered some statistics "to set the record straight."

Of the 540,000 Jews who have immigrated from the CIS during the past five years, 81.2 percent are halachically Jewish; 7.3 percent are married to Jews; 9.4 percent are the children of Jewish fathers and non-Jewish mothers; 2.1 percent are the grandchildren of Jews who have immigrated here and 0.4 percent are the grandchildren of Jews who have not immigrated.

Sarid fighting Yeroham air pollution

AMIR ROZENBLIT

ENVIRONMENT Minister Yossi Sarid signed an order yesterday forcing the Phoenix glass factory in Yeroham to conduct a study of emissions from the plant in a bid to stop air pollution attributed to it.

The order was sent to Koor officials, who own the factory.

Under the order, the factory must, within six months, check the emissions and present a plan on how it intends to reduce them. The plan must be implemented within four years.

Restaurant demands kashrut approval though open on Shabbat

EVELYN GORDON

RESTAURANTS that are open on Shabbat but serve kosher food should not be denied kashrut certificates from the rabbinate, according to a petition to the High Court of Justice yesterday.

The petition was filed by the Real Jewish Food Corporation, which owns the Elimelech Restaurant in Tel Aviv. The restaurant has had a kashrut certificate from the Tel Aviv Rabbinate for several years. Recently, however, the rabbinate threatened to take away its certificate, due to "reliable reports" that the restaurant had been open after the start of Shabbat on a few Fridays.

Attorney Chaim Stanger argued that by law, kashrut certificates cannot be conditioned on

anything but whether the food is kosher. Whether or not the restaurant observes Shabbat is irrelevant, he said.

Furthermore, he said, the restaurant did not actually cook any of the food on Shabbat (which would make it forbidden to eat according to Jewish law). Instead, all the food was prepared in advance and kept warm on special hot plates, such as those used in religious homes and hotels on Shabbat.

Stanger argued that the rabbinate is discriminating against the restaurant, since many Tel Aviv hotels are given kashrut certificates even though they do not

observe Shabbat (for instance, they run the cash registers on Shabbat). In these hotels, the rabbinate sends someone to supervise the kashrut in the kitchens on Shabbat, and the same option should be made available to Elimelech, if the rabbinate thinks it is necessary, he said.

Finally, he argued, there are many people who do not observe Shabbat, but prefer to eat kosher food. These people should have the right to eat in appropriate restaurants, just as those who prefer nonkosher food do, he said.

The petition also demanded that kashrut certificates be issued for a year at a time, instead of only three months.

Woman's gallstones removed by 'keyhole surgery'

JUDY SIEGEL

FOR the first time in Israel, large gallstones have been removed from the bile ducts by "keyhole surgery."

Dr. Moshe Duda'i, of Jerusalem's Bikur Holim Hospital, performed the unusual laparoscopic surgery on a 23-year-old woman, who was presented with the 10 large stones after the surgery.

Removing the stones conventionally would have required complicated abdominal surgery, taking many hours and requiring a long convalescence.

Duda'i, head of the hospital's surgical department, is an expert in laparoscopy, in which tiny incisions are made to insert a video camera, scalpel, and air tube to inflate the abdomen.

The laparoscopic surgery itself took five hours, after which the patient quickly recovered and was able to eat, drink, and move about without pain. She will be sent home in two days.

Closure sends vegetable prices up

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

VEGETABLE prices have gone up because of the closure of the territories, which has prevented the entrance of workers and produce, the Agriculture Ministry reported yesterday.

It said 5,000 Palestinians were employed in agriculture on the eve of the closure.

"Not only are there 5,000 fewer workers, but less produce is entering from Gaza, since farmers' vehicles are not allowed into the country," said ministry spokesman Roni Hassid.

The ministry reported that to-

matoes are now selling at NIS 3.50 a kilo wholesale, compared with about NIS 2.50 last week. The retail price is up to about NIS 5.

Cucumbers have increased to NIS 4 a kilo wholesale, and NIS 6 retail, and red peppers to NIS 4.50 wholesale, NIS 6 retail.

The price rises, however, do not yet justify imports, the ministry said, adding that importers would in any case only be interested in bringing in tomatoes when wholesale prices go up to NIS 4.50-NIS 5.50.

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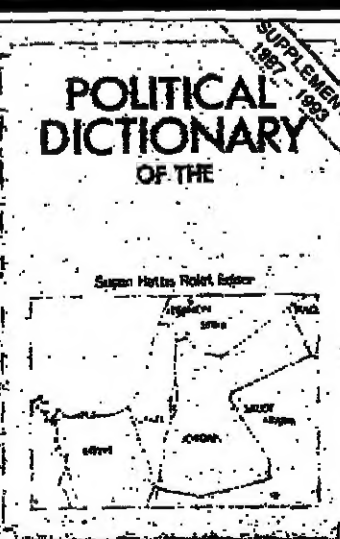
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False Russian missile report causes international scare

News agencies

MOSCOW - A Russian news agency's erroneous report that Russian forces had shot down a combat missile launched from Northern Europe set off international alarm bells yesterday.

The "missile" turned out to be a NASA-funded rocket launched to study the Northern Lights. A Norwegian defense official in Oslo said the rocket was part of a routine scientific research program at a civilian range on an island in the Spitzbergen archipelago.

The Norwegians launched it successfully without a shoot-down, after informing the Russian government. The Interfax news agency later acknowledged that its report was wrong.

Interfax later quoted a high-ranking Russian air defense official as saying the missile had landed in the archipelago far from Russia. It is Norway's northernmost arctic outpost, 1,500 km north of Oslo.

Vyacheslav Terekhov, deputy director of the agency, blamed the mistake on false information from a high-ranking military source.

Lt.-Col. John Espen Lien of the North Norway defense command at Bodø said the missile was fired from Andoya island off North Cape and went down as planned.

"There was a missile fired from Andoya rocket range, a civilian Norwegian aerospace centre," he said.

"It went completely according to plan and landed in the Spitz-

bergen area," he said. "There was nothing unusual about the launch. All instruments worked to perfection."

"We are a little puzzled by the report," added Erik Ianke, spokesman for the Norwegian Supreme Defense Command in Oslo.

He stressed that it was a civilian rocket and had nothing to do with Norwegian defense.

Following the initial urgent report, Russian government and military officials immediately said they knew nothing about a missile shootdown.

But at a time when Russia's military is embroiled in a bloody war in Chechnya, the report raised immediate concern worldwide.

Spokesmen for NATO, several European countries and President Clinton, traveling in Pennsylvania, said they were looking into the report. Later, a White House spokesman called it "totally unsubstantiated."

Valery Grishin, a Russian government spokesman, said Norwegian authorities had fully informed Moscow of the launch of a weather research rocket.

"The rocket fell on its own - no one shot it down," Grishin said.

According to a statement from the rocket range, the four-stage research rocket was called Black Brent XXII. It was part of a NASA project and carried instruments from American and Norwegian universities to study the Northern Lights.

Former E. German border guard acquitted in shooting

MAGDEBURG, Germany, Jan 25 (Reuters) - A former East German border guard was acquitted of manslaughter yesterday when a court ruled it could not determine whether he intended to kill a professional cyclist shot as he crossed the frontier in 1950.

Prosecutors said the 64-year-old defendant deliberately shot dead racing cyclist Gerhard Oelze as he rode back into East Germany after buying spare parts in West Germany.

The guard, who was not identified, testified that he fired two warning shots at Oelze, then shot at his bicycle.

The judge ruled it could no longer be proved after such a long time that the guard was trying to kill Oelze.

At least 400 people were killed trying to leave East Germany across the heavily fortified border with West Germany and around West Berlin during the Cold War.

Most trials of officials responsible for the shootings have ended in suspended sentences or been abandoned because of defendants' ill health.



Chechen refugees squat in the back of a truck taking them out of Grozny yesterday.

(Reuters)

Russian Security Council says Chechnya campaign is over

MOSCOW (AP) - Russia's Security Council declared the military operation in Chechnya to be effectively completed yesterday and announced a major shakeup, removing a hard-line minister as Chechnya coordinator and placing paramilitary police in charge of the offensive.

Despite Moscow's claim, fighting raged on in the rebel capital Grozny, with new Russian rocket and artillery bombardments of rebel strongholds in the city's southern districts.

Russian officials said up to 2,000 Chechen militants were still fighting in Grozny while its 80,000 remaining civilians had scarce food and no medical help.

Still, the shakeup in Moscow formally introduced what the Kremlin calls the second stage of the Chechen operation, with an emphasis on peace talks, economic revival and a Moscow-installed provisional government.

The Security Council notes that the military phase... is effectively over," the presidential

press service said.

Two prominent hawks, Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and Nationalities Minister Nikolai Yegorov, were relieved of their immediate involvement in overseeing the war operation.

It did not appear that their removal signaled that the so-called "party of war" was losing ground in the government; Independent Television said the Council even reportedly congratulated Grachev for his role in Chechnya.

Instead, the moves allow the Kremlin to declare the offensive as virtually over and help set the stage for peace talks now that Russian forces have the upper hand. The Chechens regard both Grachev and Yegorov as directly responsible for the bloodshed and thousands of deaths.

Despite the announced start of the police operation, there was no move to withdraw the army from the separatist province.

Council secretary Oleg Lobov said army troops "will stay in Chechnya for the time being, but

Interior Ministry forces will begin to play the primary role."

The powerful council, chaired by President Boris Yeltsin, includes the prime minister, the defense, foreign and interior ministers and the chief of counterintelligence. Its decisions do not have to be approved by parliament.

Lobov said a senior Interior Ministry official will be given command in Chechnya and the powers currently held by Grachev - including the right to employ army units.

Lobov also announced that Yegorov was being relieved of his duties as presidential envoy and Chechnya operation coordinator because of ill health. He will keep the posts of nationalities minister and deputy prime minister.

The nature of the illness was not revealed.

Lobov said the government now plans to intensify negotiations with the Chechen field commanders, elders and the ethnic

Chechen community in Moscow.

The goal is to create an interim government alongside a "parliament" made of regional representatives and prepare for elections that could take place as early as this year, Lobov said.

But in the war zone, signs of peace were scant.

Russian forces continued their destructive bombardments from the air and lightly armed Chechen rebels fought back. The Chechens shot down two Russian Mi-24 helicopter gunships over the village of Goryachevskoye just north of Grozny, killing all six crew members, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

The last relatively unscathed neighborhoods in the south came under heavy bombardments for the second day in a row and sniper fire crackled near a little roadside market where some of Grozny's last remaining residents go for food and water.

O.J. defense: Witness saw 4 by murder scene

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - O.J. Simpson's lead defense attorney told jurors yesterday that a witness would testify that on the night the American football legend's ex-wife and a friend were killed, he saw four men get in an unmarked car and speed away from the area.

In the defense team's opening statement in Simpson's double-murder trial, attorney Johnnie Cochran suggested that police and prosecutors, in what he called their "rush to judgment," had failed to investigate other possible suspects.

Cochran said the witness, a woman who was looking for an apartment to rent in an affluent Los Angeles neighborhood, saw four men - some wearing knit caps - on the street near Nicole Brown Simpson's townhouse around the time police say she and Ron Goldman were murdered June 12.

"The two who are behind apparently have something in their hands they are carrying," Cochran said. "She thinks they may be undercover police... They get into an unmarked car and they speed away."

The woman contacted police and prosecutors in an effort to tell them what she had seen, but "they didn't want to listen," Cochran said.

Prosecutors said police found a knit cap they believe belonged to Simpson at the murder scene.

Earlier in the day, Judge Lance Ito lifted his ban on live television coverage of the trial after a TV

network apologized for making a major error in allowing a juror's face to be inadvertently shown.

It accepted Court TV's apology for accidentally showing an alternate juror's face for eight-tenths of a second during its live feed of the prosecution case Tuesday. He praised the cable station's courage and professionalism for admitting its mistake so swiftly.

But Robert Shapiro, an attorney for Simpson, complained that his client's right to a fair trial had been damaged because the flap over coverage prevented the defense from immediately launching into its case.

That meant the jury went home Tuesday night after hearing only the prosecution case. When Court-TV made the mistake, Ito fumed in court: "My credibility as a judge is at stake... Our friends in the media, thank you again."

Ito had ordered that the identities of the 12 jurors and the 10 alternates be kept secret to guard their safety.

In his ruling yesterday, Ito allowed resumed coverage as long as the camera showed only a fixed shot and did not pan the room showing people's reactions.

"The cameras are the only thing keeping this trial honest," said Theo Wilson, a now-retired veteran trial reporter for the New York Daily News. She said that without the cameras viewers and newspaper readers would be subjected to dozens of different interpretations and spins.

GOP urges Clinton: 'Join with us'

WASHINGTON (AP) - In a pointed prelude to a year of political struggle, President Clinton's call for a "leaner, not meaner" government was drawing skepticism from key Republicans.

"He's going to run into reality fairly quickly," Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole said yesterday.

In a lengthy State of the Union address Tuesday night, Clinton offered few new initiatives but appealed to political opponents to join him in seeking "dramatic change in our economy, in our government and in ourselves."

"We want to work together where we can," Dole said yesterday. "In other areas, we'll just have to battle it out. That's the way it's always been."

The Republicans arranged to begin debate during the day in the House on a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, centerpiece of their "Contract with America" that powered their election sweep last November.

Strikingly, Clinton spoke neither for nor against that proposal in his address to Congress, even though his opposition helped defeat the amendment a year ago.

In his 60-minute address, Clinton urged a national campaign to combat teen pregnancy. To cut down on illegal immigration, he proposed creation of a national data bank to help employers verify the identification of prospective workers. He called on Congress to stop accepting gifts from lobbyists.

New Jersey Gov. Christie Whitman, the tax-cutting chief executive tapped by Republicans to deliver a rebuttal to Clinton's address, cited November.

"In elections all across America, the voters have chosen smaller government, lower taxes and less spending," he said.

Dole said Republicans "welcome any support the president offers" as the new Republican majority goes to work.

"Let's change the way government works," Clinton said. "Let's make it smaller, less costly and smarter - leaner, not meaner."

Clinton's speech marked the first time since Harry Truman's tenure that a Democratic president delivered a State of the Union address before a Republican-controlled Congress, and aides said they hoped it would reinvigorate a presidency battered by the midterm elections.

But striking silences often greeted Clinton from the Republicans. At one point, they even booed.

"Now the hard part comes, working with the new Congress," Dole said this morning. "I think the realization is, now that the speech is made, he must deal with the Republican Congress and we have a different mandate."

Republican Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania said the partisan reaction foreshadowed "a tough year ahead."

Clinton blended calls for bipartisanship with a pledge to veto any effort to reverse last year's gun control legislation. "I will not let that be repealed," he said to Democratic applause.

With Republicans pledging to pass tax cuts, Clinton laid out his condition for signing them: "Will it build the middle class and shrink the underclass? Is it paid for?"

When Clinton called for a hike in the minimum wage, the speaker and other Republicans sat in silence while the Democrats applauded approvingly.

When it came to shrinking government, Clinton said he had done much already, and acknowledged the voters were demanding more.

Democrats pronounced themselves pleased with Clinton.

"He made it clear that Democrats are going to fight for America's hard-working, middle-class families," said House Democratic leader Dick Gephardt of Missouri.

British Waco victims' relatives sue for \$300 m.

MANCHESTER (Reuters) - Survivors of the disastrous raid on a religious cult compound in Waco, Texas and relatives of those who died are suing US President Bill Clinton and the FBI, a US lawyer said yesterday.

Lawyer Kirk Lyons, who is attending an inquest into the deaths of the 23 Britons who belonged to the Branch Davidian cult, said three survivors and 60 relatives were claiming

around \$300m. in compensation for the tragedy.

"This is a political trial - we are not against law enforcement, we are against rogue law," he said.

The tank and tear gas raid, followed by a fire in which 75 people died, was an "unnecessary assault which endangered lives with a completely bungled attempt to arrest one man," he said.

The FBI stormed the heavily-

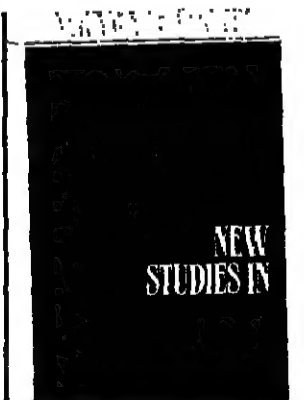
armed cult compound in 1993 after a 51-day siege. There were 25 children among the dead, who included cult leader David Koresh. Only nine members survived.

The inquest in this northern English city, now in its third day, is hearing the first detailed public information on the tragedy.

Lyons said the lawsuit would be filed with the District Court in Houston, Texas during the week.

LEARN MORE ABOUT JUDAISM

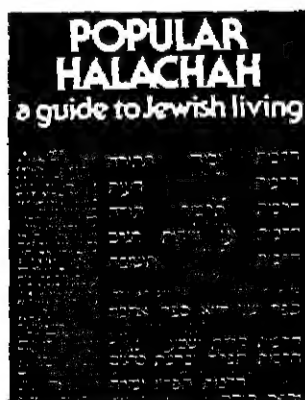
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The Jerusalem Post

GOP urges Clinton: 'Join with us'

All-natural lipstick offers natural look

FLAIR
GREER FAY CASHMAN

KISS My Face, a new brand of lipstick on the market here, is unlike anything you've tried before. It is made of 100% natural products, and is free of coloring agents, animal products, preservatives, mineral oil and alcohol. Needless to say, the product has never been tested on animals.

Exclusively imported by Ra'anana-based Parfums Abesera, the American-made lipstick comes in 16 shades. The one I tried is Berry Treasure, which in the tube appears to be a deep strawberry color.

Within less than a minute of application, its creamy, moist texture had penetrated my lips. It no longer looked as if I was wearing lipstick. Instead, my lips had developed a healthier looking, natural color. The manufacturers boast that their product also tastes great.

I didn't like the taste, but since it dissipated quickly, that didn't bother me. The natural color lasted for several hours.

The price of Kiss My Face was not immediately available.

WITH MOTHER'S Day looming next week, cosmetics companies are coming out with additional gift items. Among the good buys is the NIS 57 Sara Luxon basket of six products produced under the Esty brand name. Included are hair conditioner, liquid soap, perfumed deodorant, hand cream and two bottles of body lotion.

For those women who are not partial to cream eye-makeup removers, Jade offers a pleasant-feeling liquid option which is nongreasy and removes waterproof mascara. A 100-ml bottle costs NIS 23.35.

To complement its Multi-Active Day Cream, Clarins has introduced Multi-Active Night Lotion, which contains selected plant extracts as well as vitamins A and H to promote skin revitalization and to protect the cell membranes.

While the manufacturers claim skin will look more radiant, smoother, more relaxed and more youthful, they do not make claims to remove or reduce wrinkles.

FOR PEOPLE who wash their hair daily, shampoo can be a very costly outlay. The Israeli-made Shampoo 100, a new Shelly Besser product under the Tab Cosmetics label, comes in a mousse form in an aerosol spray can, which enables the user to control the quantity of shampoo used. The tiniest pressure releases sufficient mousse for a head of shoulder-length hair. The standard-size can, according to the manufacturers, can last up to 100 washes of shampoo, and contains sufficient mousse for 100 hair washes. It sells for NIS 13.60.

SOME WOMEN never change the color of their eye shadow. Others like to experiment, and welcome opportunities for variety. Jansene has recently put out two new five-color palettes - one with burnished warm tones, and the other with clouded cold tones. The warm palette contains light chocolate, copper, tan, bright green and forest green; while the cold palette includes reddish brown, cloudy green, cloudy purple, pink and black. The cost per palette is NIS 123.



Tocade, Rochas's newest fragrance, lives up to its firm's classy reputation.

In the world of fashion and cosmetics, the name Rochas has always been associated with class. Tocade, the newest Rochas fragrance, certainly lives up to that reputation. Light but lingering, its most discernible ingredients are rose, vanilla and amber tempered with bergamot, geranium, cedar, and musk.

Tocade eau de toilette is available in 30-ml, 50-ml and 100-ml bottles priced at NIS 125, NIS 193, and NIS 275, respectively.

OFF THE SHELF MARTHA MESELS

NEXT Tuesday is a local holiday with schizophrenia. The school system celebrates it as the politically correct Family Day. But the general public and the commercial sector still mark it as the traditional Mother's Day.

Whatever you call it, the day has been commercialized almost beyond recognition from its original concept of children honoring their mothers with homemade gifts or breakfast in bed. The most imaginative commercial proposal for the occasion is a troubadour for hire. He will serenade a mother with two songs, for NIS 200, but only in the geographic area from Tel Aviv to Hadera.

Hezi Levy, 31, of Moshav Udim near Netanya, makes his living as a troubadour. A lyric tenor who studied at the Rubin Academy of Music, Levy normally hires himself out to sing and play the guitar at dinner parties and other festive gatherings for \$600 plus VAT per evening.

His specialties are classical, Renaissance and Baroque music, but he sings in almost any style and language. He is equally comfortable doing "Green-sleeves" or the Beatles' "When I'm 64." Despite a Yemite-Persian background, Levy even sings in Yiddish.

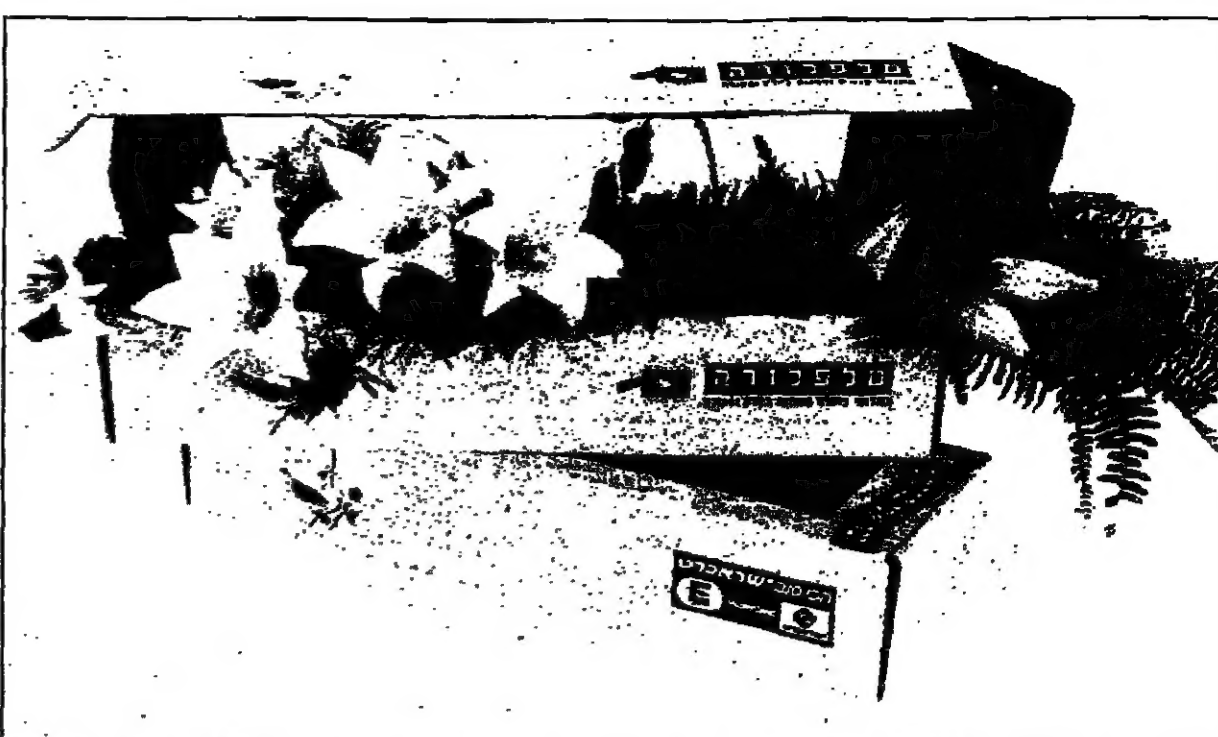
If you want him to appear under Mother's window or at her front door next Tuesday, you can phone Levy at (09) 654869. He will perform in a black costume with a red silk scarf and a traditional troubadour's hat.

FLOWERS ARE a conventional Mother's Day gift, but this year they've turned over a new leaf: you can pay for them with the credit points (kochavim, literally "stars") amassed on your Isracard account.

The offer is cosponsored by Isracard and Teleflora, the international rival, which arrived in Israel six months ago and is already affiliated with more than 60 florist shops throughout the country.

Every 45 Isracard points are worth NIS 10 in flowers at a Teleflora-linked florist. The offer begins tomorrow and continues for a week. The minimum purchase is NIS 50, which makes a bouquet suitable to fill the special Mother's Day gift boxes. By charging to Isracard, some or all of the cost of the flowers will be paid in points, with any remainder due in shekels. The latest monthly statement shows how many points a user has to his credit.

To find a Teleflora florist, you can call the chain's central number, (03) 562-8280. You can also order flowers by phone via this number, or by fax to (03) 562-8284.



Isracard credit points: An unconventional way to pay for a conventional Mother's Day gift. (Sivan Farag)

FOR A truly off-the-wall gift, buy Mother (or Father) an antique firearm, original or replica, to hang on the wall.

The Petah Tikva furniture importer Da Vinci offers what it says are authentic antiquated Moroccan and Afghan guns with copper and mother-of-pearl trim, for NIS 4,500 each. There are also German replicas of antique guns, averaging NIS 3,600.

Importer Shlomo Schneider says these unloaded weapons - designed for using gunpowder - do not require licenses if used as decorations in home or office. He also sells swords in 18th-century style for around NIS 2,700, and hunting horns for NIS 600.

Da Vinci's showroom is at 6 Rehov Eyal, in the Kiryat Aryeh industrial zone of Petah Tikva, tel. (03) 924-3766.

THE APPLE Peeling Machine is a hand-turned contraption which really gives an apple a close shave, removing only the skin. It is said to work well on pears and kiwis too, but I haven't tried these fruits. Made in China, the device is imported by Gad Enterprises - tel. (03) 561-9122 - and costs only about NIS 28. It is in the Hyperstark chain and at Ace Hardware (near Rehovot), and will soon be in Shekhem and other department and housewares stores.

The device is meant for peeling quantities of apples for pies, strudels, and applesauce. One wonders if it will get enough use to justify the kitchen space it occupies.

The label and instructions are in English. It's easy to use, but requires caution as the peeling blade is razor-

sharp. In answer to my question, the importer advised against trying to peel potatoes with the apparatus. It probably won't work well and might damage the mechanism.

AN EQUAL-opportunity gift for either parent, or both, would be a Keter Plastic toolbox, on sale this month at the Knech Uvneh DIY chain, in Ra'anana, Jerusalem and Haifa. The bright-colored boxes sell for NIS 36.90.

And for nearly twice that amount, you can buy a bench or small stepladder which doubles as a storage box.

FOR THE globally concerned mother, one can buy stationery goods of handmade paper from Nepal. They carry the notation: "Buying this product will support to improve the socio economic conditions of the lower strata of society in both rural and urban areas of Nepal [sic]." Resembling old parchment, the handmade paper is made from the bark of *Daphne cannabina*. The trees are said to regenerate in six to eight years, preserving the fragile forest ecology of Nepal.

At better stationery shops, prices range about NIS 36 to NIS 45 for notebooks, notecards and letter paper. The importer is Elgan of Rishon LeZion ((03) 962-5892). It also imports decorative paper goods from Italy.

HAMASHBIR LAZARCHAN, the country's biggest department store chain, likes Mother's Day so much that it's going to continue it for a month. The idea, says Hamashbir, is to prevent any child or husband from saying, "I didn't have time to buy a

gift." The month of special offers begins only on Mother's Day itself, January 31, and will continue through the last day of February. Participating departments will be cosmetics, housewares, bed linen and fashion accessories.

In cosmetics, for instance, there is to be a "buy one, get one free" offer on a range of products. Customers buying merchandise over a certain value will get a gift.

Somehow, this sounds more like an appeal for women to pamper themselves, than gift suggestions for undecided family members.

Among the new product lines offered for sale exclusively at Hamashbir is bed linen with the US brand-name Martex, but made here under license by Nili. The latest design, called French Countryside, features bright-colored flowers. A single-bed set costs NIS 223, a double-bed set is NIS 310, and there are companion velvety Martex blankets in solid colors for NIS 143 and NIS 174.

MAMA MIA! The Co-op Tzafon's 55 supermarkets across the north of the country are taking on an Italian flavor from Saturday night, for a month-long Italian Festival. The festival will feature pastas, sauces, ice creams, cakes, cookies, chocolates, wines and coffee.

A novelty for Israeli shoppers will be packaged quick-cooking pasta and rice dishes, such as risotto alla milanese (rice with saffron), risotto ai funghi porcini (rice with mushrooms), and risotto agli asparagi (rice with asparagus). In the nonfood category, there will be ceramic dishes, vases, cutlery and cooking utensils.

Psychological warfare to be employed in the used-car market

I have bad news and good news for drivers. The bad news is that most of us are going to end up selling used cars.

The good news is we won't be doing that for a living.

Every few years, your car has to be replaced, and there are three options for doing that: either sell on the private market, sell to a dealer, or trade it in for a new car or another used car.

The private market is the most demanding and time-consuming of the three. But it is unarguably where you will get the highest price, provided you are not duped into selling to a "dealer in disguise."

The rules of the game are simple. Get a copy of the automobile price list edited by Levy Yitzhak, published monthly and available for NIS 17 at most bookstores and some kiosks. This paperback-size "bible of the automotive trade" gives the "list price" of every version of all models. It even details how much extra to charge if the car has extras, like an air conditioner or automatic transmission.

Remember that, according to the rules of the game, the "list price" is the most you can ask but not necessarily what you will receive.

The next step is to advertise your car in the press or by pasting a note on the rear windshield of your car. Then clean your car, sit back and wait for the callers. Tell them you want the "list price." They will examine the vehicle and if they are impressed will almost certainly ask to take it to a diagnostic vehicle-testing center or "automobile laboratory," such as Dynamometer or Computest. Even at this early stage, you may draw up a written agreement that the price for the car will be the "list" minus the cost of all repairs suggested by the testing center.

Much has been reported in consumer journals and the news media about these labs, most of it bad. *Kolboek* and *Yediot Aharonot*, for example, each took a car to three testing centers and received three different reports.

The testing companies are definitely too hard on the cars they test; they do everything they can to find problems.

That way, they cover themselves against potential lawsuits.

TESTING CENTERS remain the sacred cows of the local automotive trade, and few Israelis buy a used car without going to one of them.

After the center gives you a printout of all the repairs needed, go with your buyer to a neutral service station and get a quote for the jobs recommended by the lab. Subtract this sum from the list price and ... you have a deal.

Unfortunately, it is all too often not that simple. Before you can sell to a genuine private buyer at the "list price minus repairs," you must sometimes be able to withstand enough psychological pressure to smash a trained espionage agent.

At least nine out of every 10 callers will be dealers posing as private buyers. They will either be used-car lot owners

MOTORGING JOEL GORDIN

or "brokers" who work from home dealing in used cars in their spare time.

Their method: A first caller aggressively informs you, "You don't have a snowball's chance in hell of getting the list price. I'll pay you two-thirds of that and that's final!"

When you slam down the receiver, a colleague of the first caller phones and says the same thing in more moderate tones (that's a variation on the well-worn "bad cop, good cop" routine used in police questioning). After a number of dealers posing as private buyers and working in pairs or threesomes have had a go at your nerves, you may well start to crack.

You lose confidence in ever being able to get anywhere near the "list price," especially if you have a time limit, for example, on buying a new car.

Let's say the list price of your car is NIS 30,000. A crafty dealer-posing-as-

a-private-buyer will offer you NIS 18,000, assuring you that "you will never get more." When you start to wilt, you might concede, "Well, I don't know. I may take NIS 25,000."

As quick as a flash, the dealer will be over at your home with a suitcase filled with NIS 20,000 in cash. "Here's the money," he'll say. "I need the car badly, so I'll pay you NIS 20,000. Take it or leave it, last chance."

Who can resist the temptation of hard cash, especially if he is fed up with the endless telephone calls? Well, you should if you want a fair price for your vehicle. As hard as it is, you have to keep sifting the dealers from the genuine private buyers until you get lucky.

IF YOU really can't be bothered with the selling routine or if you need the money in a hurry, you might as well take the car directly to a used-car lot. Why be plagued by calls? If you are lucky, the lot owner will give you two-thirds of the list price. On the plus side, he will pay you in cash on the spot and

probably won't insist on a test. Try four or five and, obviously, choose the one offering the most.

Some dealers agree to let you keep your car until you take possession of the new one. This could save a considerable inconvenience and the expense of renting a car.

Trading in your old car as partial payment for the new one is not as advanced here as in Western countries. The so-called "trade-in departments" at the big dealers are simply used-car salespeople who have a contract to work in the showrooms. They pay whatever money they receive from you on your account toward the new car and are reimbursed by the dealer.

However, the "trade-in agents" or used-car dealers are responsible for selling the car they buy from you, so they have every interest in paying you as little as possible. The dealers from whom you buy your new car are not responsible for the trade-in department and will not assist you with your deal.

In short, you might as well go to the nearest "Honest John" used-car lot.

BARGAIN BASEMENT

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Suspension renamed

FORMALLY, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has rejected President Ezer Weizman's suggestion to suspend the talks with the PLO and reassess the nation's course. But in effect he has followed at least some of Weizman's advice. By appointing a ministerial committee and giving it two months to study how to implement "full separation" between Israel and the Palestinians, he effectively suspended the implementation of the next step of the Oslo agreement.

At first glance, this may seem like a clever move. An official suspension of the talks might have angered the world community, and alienated Rabin's coalition partners as well as many in his own party. By ordering a study of separation, Rabin has avoided criticism while achieving the desired results.

The trouble with such gimmicks is that they are merely postponements of an inevitable day of reckoning. There is, of course, no way to realize the idea of total separation without resorting to the utterly unacceptable "transfer" of large numbers of both Jews and Arabs. A realistic study of the issue should reach this conclusion in far less than two months.

Nor is it possible to contemplate separation and simultaneously allow Arab workers from the territories to work in Israel. It must be one or the other. Yet permanent closure would have a devastating impact on the economic conditions in the self-rule areas, and Israel would come under precisely the kind of international censure the Labor government has been trying to avoid. Worse, pretending to continue the process

while actually halting it fails to achieve one of the most important possible benefits of an official suspension: a realization on Yasser Arafat's part that he has something to lose by allowing terrorism to continue. His contemptuous, laughing dismissal of reporters' questions Tuesday on whether he was going to condemn the Beit Lid massacre was clear evidence that he does not view terrorist incidents as threats to the "peace process" and the Israeli withdrawal that it dictates.

As long as Arafat is repeatedly assured by the government that the talks will continue no matter how often he violates the agreement and how murderous the acts of Gaza-based killers, there is little reason for him to do anything against the terrorists.

He cannot help reaching the conclusion that there is no price to pay for doing little more than detaining some Islamic Jihad and Hamas leaders and releasing them within days or weeks. Only the threat of the suspension and ultimate collapse of the talks can convince him that there is more to lose by failing to combat terrorism than by declaring war on the two groups.

It may, then, be wiser for Rabin to call the reassessment he has ordered by its real name, and declare an official moratorium on the talks until the country enjoys, say, six months free of terrorism. Only then is there a chance that Arafat may take some real action against Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other advocates of the "armed struggle." The prospect of remaining no more than the mayor of Gaza and Jericho may do wonders to help him focus.

The government's nervousness

YESTERDAY'S Knesset pandemonium may have set a new low for MKs' conduct. That in Japan and Italy parliamentarians sometimes resort to physical violence, or that in Spain army officers once stopped a debate by waving pistols, is of little comfort. The sight of lawmakers behaving like children in the throes of a tantrum is enough to drive the most ardent democrat to black despair.

That some of the worst offenders were government ministers, who used barely printable street language against acting chairman MK Esther Salomon (Yi'ud), and that some of these ministers actually threatened her physically, made the scene one of the most shameful in the Knesset's history.

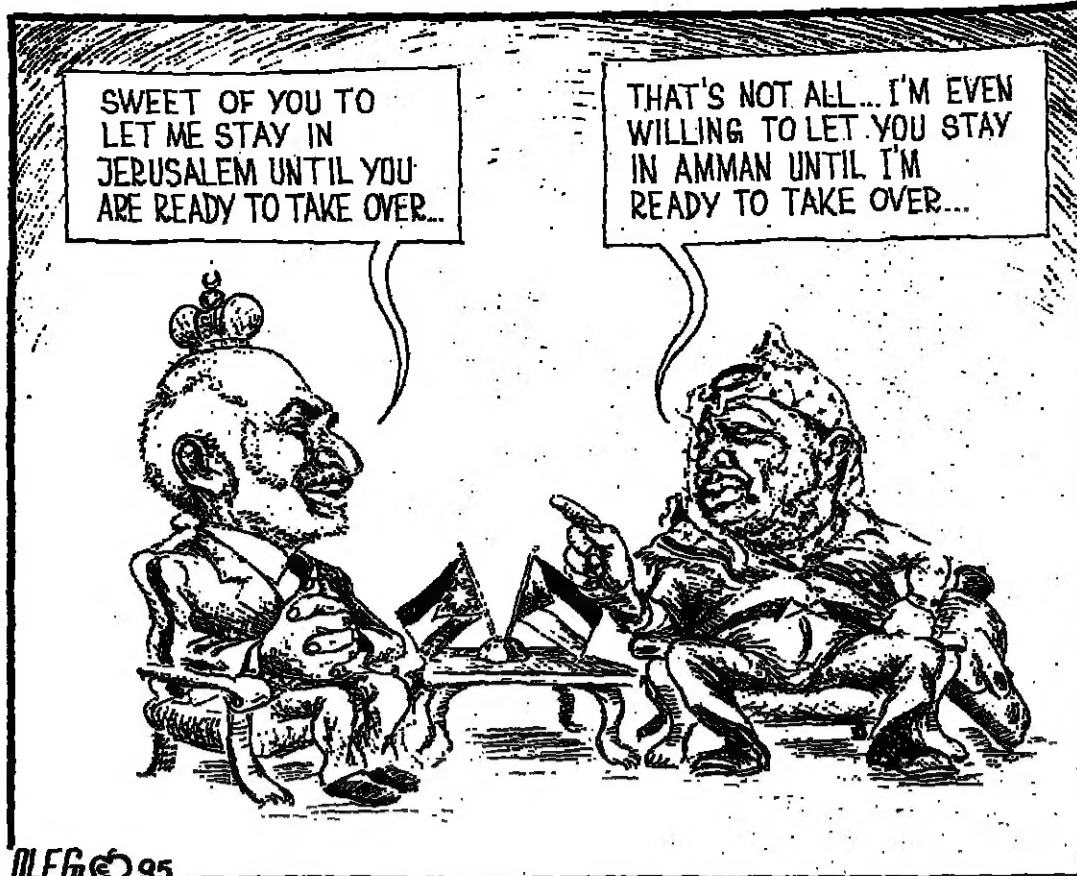
But the dreadful exhibition was obviously not only a manifestation of bad manners. It betrayed an unease in the government. What triggered the melee was Salomon's call for a vote when some of the coalition members were absent from the Knesset floor. Her action was probably due mostly to inexperience, but the disproportionate calumny heaped on her reflected the government's nervousness about commanding a majority. Indeed, it has to rely on such a tiny majority that had the opposition been better organized they might have won the vote.

In the event, the government won the day by

a hair. In an unprecedented move in this Knesset, two prominent Labor MKs, Emanuel Zissman and Avigdor Kahalani, voted against the government on a bill to include Givat Ze'ev and Ma'aleh Adumim within Jerusalem's municipal borders. (The vote was 52 to 51.) They abstained on another bill, which would have required a majority of 80 MKs to amend the Jerusalem Law.

It is no wonder, then, that the government is nervous. Under normal circumstances, governing with a tiny majority would have been perfectly acceptable. But since the government itself claims that the decisions it has to make are the most momentous in the nation's history, the reliance on a majority of one or two seems indecent.

It may be instructive to remember that after World War II broke out, the Neville Chamberlain government won a vote of confidence with a majority of 81. But because 30 members of the ruling Conservative party voted against the government and 60 abstained, Chamberlain was obliged to resign. It was felt then that only a broad-based government, enjoying the support of a large cross-section of the population, could make the necessary fateful decisions. Surely, the decisions facing the Israeli government today are no less fateful.



There's only one Islam

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

ISLAM is indivisible. It's a tragic error to regard Islamic fundamentalism as something distinct and separate from Islam itself. It's a mistake for Israel to believe that its government can make peace with the Arabs under a benign Yasser Arafat. He is irrelevant and inevitably will be swept away by Hamas.

These are the measured words of Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien, who spoke to us from his home in Dublin. The veteran Irish diplomat, writer, intellectual and one-time personal representative of the UN secretary general in Africa, caused a stir recently when he expressed these views in London's liberal *Independent* newspaper.

He declared that, for the past two centuries, Islam has been dominated by the "House of War" (*dar al-harb*) which advocates permanent war to subjugate unbelievers. Islam is not currently ascendant in the world, and this, to Moslems, is an unnatural and intolerable state of affairs. Their remedy is jihad, which is a religious duty imposed by Mohammed upon all Moslems.

Jihad is Allah's will, dictated to the Prophet from heaven. Moslems must either bear unbelievers into submission, or kill them.

O'Brien asserts that "it is dangerous to talk about fundamentalist Islam. It implies that there is some other kind of Islam which is well disposed to those who reject the Koran. There isn't another kind."

"This is Islam. There is only one Islam. It is a universalist, triumphant and political religion." O'Brien explains that the world today is divided between the House of Islam and the rest of us. What is happening isn't some aberrant phenomenon called Islamic fundamentalism, but a revival of Islam itself.

The same Islamic jihad which swept much of the known world early in Moslem history now rages in many areas in Europe, Russia and the Middle East.

So potent is this revived form of Islam that the Egyptian, Saudi and Syrian leaders were panicked when they met in Alexandria recently. Owing to their support for the Western unbelievers during the Gulf war, "they fear that they, like the Algerians - who are bound to be swamped by the jihad forces - will be swept away by the same religious fervor," says O'Brien.

From Rabin down, ministers say plaintively that there is no foolproof way to prevent suicide bombers from carrying out their deadly missions. "That is nonsense," an Israeli intelligence source told us. "After the 1956 war, Israel, France and Britain planned to blow Nasser up as he was making a 'victory' speech at the main monument in Port Said. At the last moment, it was the Israelis who called it off. The penalty Israel paid was the outbreak of the 1967 war, followed by the 1973 Arab oil embargo."

"The lesson is clear," said our source. "Kill the leaders who train, arm and provide the infrastructure for the bombers. Of course we can do it."

He added bitterly: "During the years we controlled Gaza, it was 'dry.' No explosives were smuggled into the area. Since we withdrew, the Palestinian police have turned a blind eye to the flood of armaments arriving across the Egyptian border."

A total of 140 kilos were used in the Beit Lid and other recent bombings, including those in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Another ton must be stashed away, ready to be used. We know it. But our hands are tied. We can do nothing.

"I simply haven't the words," he said, unable to hold back his tears of rage.

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

For Moslems, jihad is the only game in town. Since the Oslo

Crisis of faith

RICHARD HARWOOD

OVER the years, journalists have been stereotyped as political hacks, itinerant drunks, sob sisters and propagandists, the kind of people who exhibit a willingness to run over their grandmothers in search of a story. Their social standing, as a rule, has been as marginal as their economic condition.

But, like politicians, we journalists have been sustained by faith in the idea that what we do matters. In that sense, we are idealists. We believe that in gathering and presenting the news honestly and fairly we perform a public service.

We think that democracy can't work without access to the information citizens need to govern themselves. That's what we try to do. That's what presumably gives our vocation moral standing.

Whether this idea has broad public acceptance is debatable. A lot of evidence has accumulated that in certain circumstances - wars, national security affairs and invasions of privacy, for example - the people want the press controlled by the government.

A recent poll taken for *Time* magazine and CNN reports that

Journalists are beginning to doubt their role

83 percent of adult Americans think the press has acquired "too much influence on government." It is at the top of that list along with "the wealthy" and "large corporations."

A recent poll suggested that journalists themselves are not entirely convinced that their role in American life is vital. Only a third of them "strongly agree" with the statement: "Without journalism, the public wouldn't know what to support."

Surprisingly, that figure rises to 34 percent among the public.

THERE ARE several possible explanations for the lukewarm attitudes of journalists toward the work they do.

It may be that many of us have always been skeptical that we are indispensable to society and the workings of democracy, and that our attitudes toward our work have changed very little.

It may be that we feel a sense of displacement as other media erode our audiences. A majority of Americans say they now get most of their news from television. And there are other competitors. In the *New York Review of Books*, journalist Thomas Edsall writes: "For the past two years, [talk-show host] Rush Limbaugh III has done more to shape the tone of national political discussion than any member of the House and Senate, than any Cabinet appointee, than the chairmen of both the Democratic and Republican parties or the anchors of the major network news broadcasts."

In the election for president in 1992, it was widely conceded in the press that Bill Clinton's victory owed more to cable television, including MTV, and to talk shows, than to the traditional media.

We may have become disenchanted with the increasing acceptance of "tabloidism" as an acceptable journalistic form. In the US, more than 30 cable and network programs fill both daytime and prime-time hours with lurid tales from the underworld: the supermarkets are full of newspapers in the same genre, and the establishment press has begun to find this fare tempting.

The media orgy over the O.J. Simpson case resumed this week is that what idealistic news people want to be associated with?

Yet another discouraging factor for reporters and editors may be a sense of futility about their work. We provide ample information on which voters can act, but as often as not, they ignore us or misinterpret what we are doing.

The conjunction of these developments - erosion of audience, a sense of ineffectuality, etc. - is all in the day's work, of course. But it provides no answers or reassurances for people in the news business who have begun to wonder what it is all about.

(Washington Post)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BATTERED HAREDI WOMEN

Sir, - A word of praise for *The Jerusalem Post* and the recent outstanding coverage of the serious problem of domestic violence against women.

However, I was disappointed in a small portion of the article "After college - private lessons in pain" (January 13), in which Tamar Sani, Director of WIZO's Center for the Prevention of Violence against Women, states, with regard to battered hareidi women, the following: "The rabbis return them to the house for the sake of *shlom bayit*, and tell them they aren't being good enough wives."

Not only is this an oversimplification of a complex problem, it is a gross distortion of current rabbinic opinion and it fails to mention the existence for over two years of the Crisis Center for Religious Women. This center, along with its nationwide 24-hour hotline, offers emotional support, professional referrals and, in some cases, a viable solution.

The Center for Religious Women enjoys the overwhelming support of hareidi/Orthodox rabbinic authority, as well as of the Jerusalem Municipality. Although the center is non-political and keeps a low profile, it is nonetheless easily accessible to both religious and nonreligious women throughout Israel.

Next time Tamar Sani receives a call from a hareidi woman, she can refer her to the Crisis Center for Religious Women, as neither the volunteers, professionals nor rabbis will tell her to go home and be a better wife.

ELLEN W. HOROWITZ
Jerusalem.

WRONG!

Sir, - Quoting incorrectly from the scriptures does not seem to be the only weakness of the present government of Israel.

Mr. Rabin was wrong when he told a Jerusalem conference on the 20th anniversary of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment that "no Israeli was killed by a Fatah member last year" (David Makovsky, January 10).

On March 29, 1994, Isaac Hotenberg was murdered at Petah Tikva as an initiation into the "Fatah Hawks" terror group and, according to security sources, the terrorist who planted the Afula car bomb on April 6, 1994 (killing eight) was a member of Fatah. Furthermore, Sgt. Maj. Yitzhak Attias was shot on April 26, 1994, at the Erez checkpoint by a PLO policeman.

R. WILLERS
Wembley Park, Middx.

TEST CRICKET

Sir, - Your report of January 5 on the drawn Third Test in Australia stated that there have been only two incidences of more than 400 runs scored in the fourth innings of a test match.

If my memory serves me right (probably there isn't a Wisden within a thousand kilometers of here), England scored 654 for 5, chasing 696 to win, in the timeless test in Durban, South Africa, in March 1939. They lost only because they had to rush to catch the ship in Cape Town, as the test had run a week over its allotted time.

The scores were South Africa 530 + 481, England, 316 + 654. Bill Edrich made 219.

JEFFREY ISAACSON
Herzliya.

SHOW OF FORCE

Sir, - I was present outside the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem on Saturday evening, January 7, at the protest rally in memory of Ofra Fella. It began as an orderly, peaceful rally and the organizers went to great lengths to keep the protesters calm. The few individuals who called for "death to the Arabs" and "death to Rabin" were shouted down by the vast majority of the protesters and by the organizers, who emphasized that the protest was directed at the policy of the government of Israel in Judea and Samaria.

The protesters began a quiet, peaceful march toward King George Street, when the mounted police moved in and restricted the protesters to the area in the square outside the Kings Hotel. At this point, it appeared to me that things were at a standstill and, while the crowd was more vocal, the protest was clearly nonaggressive and nonviolent.

For some reason, reinforcements were then called in and huge water cannons were moved into place facing the protesters. The army began to forcibly push back the crowd without any provocation. There was absolutely no justification for this show of force.

It was clear to those of us who witnessed this brutal flexing of muscle that the Rabin government will go to ridiculous lengths to keep order, legal protests by settlement leaders off the main streets, off the front pages and away from the cameras of CNN, in what is clearly an attempt to portray them as "obstacles to peace." It is clear that there is one set of rules for settlement inhabitants and an entirely different set of rules for Peace Now and PLO sympathizers.

DAVID B. WOOLF
Willowdale, Canada.

POSTSCRIPTS

A SALESMAN made one telephone call too many one day recently, trying to hoodwink the one person who could see through his scam.

"I have information that your water supply is contaminated," he said to the surprised woman who answered his call. "I would like to come and conduct a free test on the water coming out of your faucets," he said genially, adding that he had an "advanced machine" to detect microorganisms, metals and other materials.

The would-be customer asked for evidence of contamination, so he quickly read from a newspaper clipping. "It says right here in *The Jerusalem Post* that the State Comptroller demanded that water supplies be filtered..."

"Hey, I wrote that article," protested the woman, none other than the *Post's* health reporter Judy Siegel-Itzkovich.

The agnostic water-filter salesman tried to recover from the shock, but Siegel-Itzkovich wasn't letting him off the hook. "Jerusalem's water comes from aquifers - not from the Kinneret - and is the best in the country," she informed him. "The State Comptroller was adamant that water from the Kinneret be filtered by Mekorot but not by home filters."

"And anyway," she added, "Why should I trust the results of your test if you sell the filters?"

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



For the man who has everything: Prince Charles's latest squeeze is a balloon doggy, a gift of a clown. Ah, the perks of royalty. (Reuters)

صكدا من الامارات

The Jerusalem Post
Crisis of faith

RICHARD HARWOOD

OVER the years, the Jerusalem Post has been a witness to many crises of faith. In the past, it has seen the rise and fall of various religious movements, the emergence of new sects, and the collapse of old ones. It has seen the birth of the State of Israel, the founding of the Jewish community in the West Bank, and the growth of the Jewish diaspora in the United States. It has seen the rise of the Jewish religious revival, the emergence of the Jewish religious movement, and the collapse of the Jewish religious movement. It has seen the birth of the Jewish religious movement, the emergence of the Jewish religious movement, and the collapse of the Jewish religious movement.

Journalists are beginning to do their role

Would the 'real' daughter please sit tight

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie,
My sister-in-law is competing with me. Ever since she joined our family, she has done her utmost to upstage me with her cooking, her sweetness towards my mother, and talk of her professional success (we work in the same place). She also makes subtle digs about the fact that I'm not married yet. When I confronted her, all I got was a sharp denial and an accusation that I was trying to stir up trouble. What's worse, she dragged my brother into the argument, and my relationship with him has suffered.

I cannot avoid her at family gatherings or at work. How can I stop her from putting me down without causing a family feud?

Suffering Sister-in-Law
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Suffering,
You probably can't keep her from putting you down. Rudeness beats good manners in battle. But if you sit tight, she is bound to end up having ambivalent relations with your mother.

As a new addition to the family, she may feel threatened by you, her "counterpart," with whom she has so much else in common. Her insecurity is exhibiting itself as one-upmanship with the "real" daughter.

In the meantime, count to 10 when an insult comes your way. Not a great solution, perhaps, but a fabulous character builder.

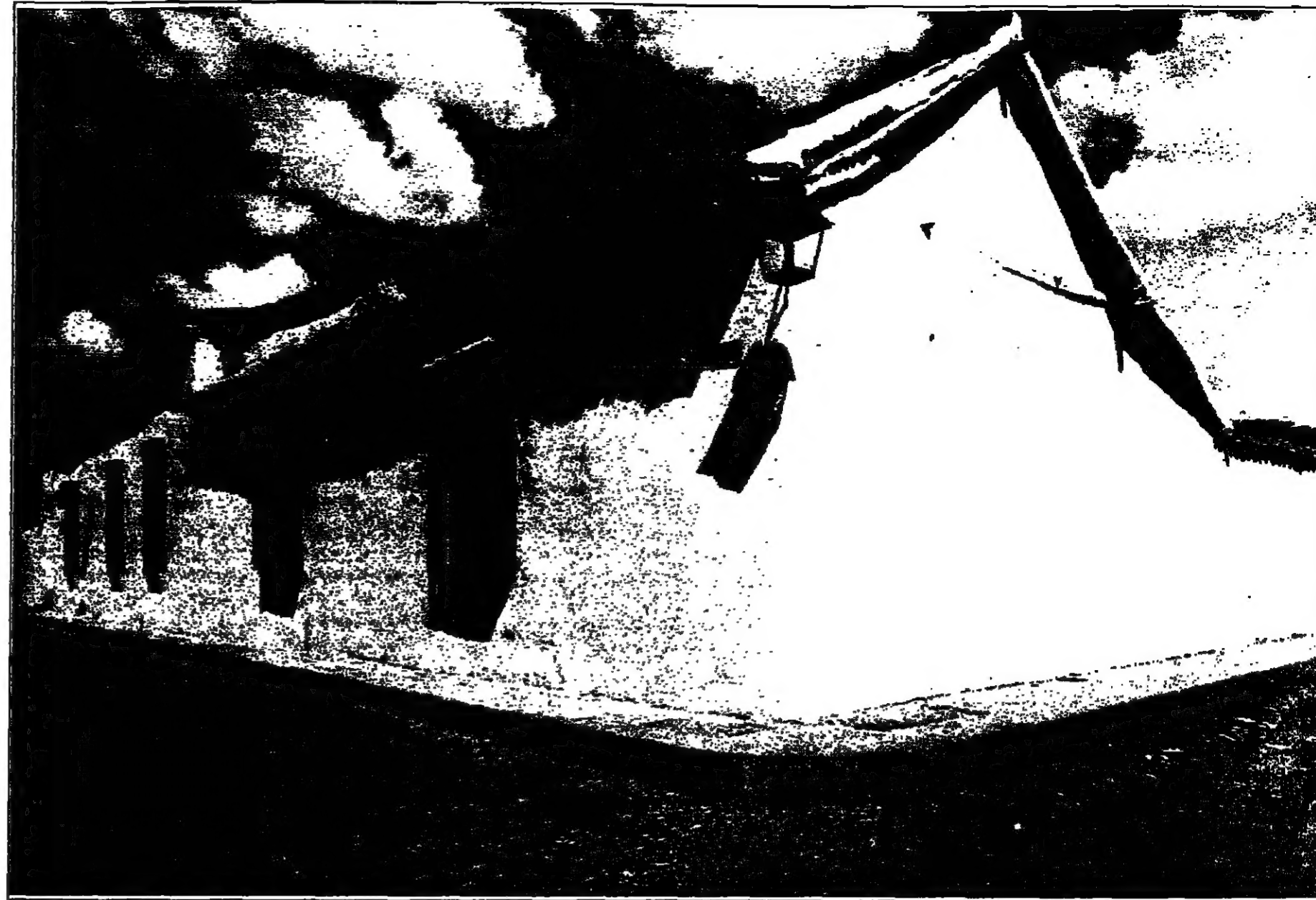
Dear Ruthie,
My 12-year-old son loses his bus card about once a week. He gets very defensive when I criticize his carelessness. He's used every excuse imaginable for not being able to keep track of it. I am enraged, and nothing I do or suggest seems to make any difference.

Dear CC,
I would simply make him pay for every lost ticket. He can pay either in cash or in chores. This way you can drop the criticism, and get the car washed to boot.

Dear Ruthie,
My neighbor borrowed a tool a while ago. A few days later, he came by, apologizing profusely for having lost it. To replace it, he gave me a brand new state-of-the-art tool, even though the one I lent him was old and cheap. I told him the loss was no big deal, and tried to refuse his generosity, but he wouldn't hear of it. I feel awful about accepting it. What can I do?

Dear Rueful,
Your neighbor is acting according to the code of behavior he considers proper. As the recipient, you feel uncomfortable. But your refusal might make him feel uncomfortable. You might suggest buying yourself a simpler, less expensive tool, and leave him the state-of-the-art model. Or you could accept his offer with grace and do something nice for him at a later date.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)



The cobblestone streets of Coro's colonial area, closed to motorists, are lined with pastel-colored houses. (Venezuelan Information and Tourism Ministry)

'Little Venice' is rich in beaches, history

SCALE the sand dunes of Coro under the scorching midday sun and little more can be seen than some scrawny stray goats and parched plants. Little more can be heard than gentle Caribbean winds until late afternoon when the temperature cools and tourists come scampering across the arid hills.

The ever-shifting dunes of Medanos de Coro National Park, some 30 meters high, are an unexpected attraction in the west of Venezuela, a country better known for its tropical beaches and balticos.

The ever-shifting goats, meanwhile, are likely to end up being roasted or cooked with coconut in traditional dishes.

The nearby town of Coro was one of the earliest Spanish settlements in South America when it was founded in 1527 and became the capital of what is now Venezuela before that title was bestowed upon Caracas 400 km. to the east.

Now Coro is only the capital of Falcon state, but this town of 60,000 has preserved some of its history with some of the best examples of colonial architecture in the country.

Historian and former president Ramon Velasquez has called Coro the very "root of Venezuela," while the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has proclaimed it an international cultural heritage site.

The state is named for Juan Crisostomo Falcon, the revolutionary-turned-president in 1863-1868, who provided for free elections, a two-house parliament and social equality, and who abolished capital punishment and debtors' prisons.

The cobblestone streets of the

colonial area, blocked to motorists, are lined with houses painted in pastel greens, blues, yellows and browns, and capped with red Spanish tile.

The white cathedral, begun in 1583 and finished 53 years later, is one of the oldest in the Americas. Its tower was fitted with gun slits for defense against pirate attacks, but was sacked several times over the years.

Some of the houses were modeled on Dutch styles transplanted from the island of Curacao just north.

The Coro Museum, housed in a former convent, features a host of religious artifacts, most brought over by Spanish settlers. The nearby Jewish cemetery,

said to be the oldest still in use in South America, saw its first burial in 1830 at a time of persecution in Coro, when many Jews who had settled here from Curacao returned.

Sun-lovers seeking some respite from history can travel about 90 kilometers north along the Paraguan Peninsula and find a few of the 1,700 km. of beaches along Venezuela's coast.

Move about 250 km. west and enter Zulia state, which borders Colombia and which has been the source of Venezuela's revenues in recent years.

The General Rafael Urdaneta Bridge, which at 8 km. is one of the world's largest spans, links the eastern and western shores of Lake Maracaibo.

Under the lake lie 10 billion barrels in proven oil reserves, part of the country's 64 billion barrels, the largest amount of re-

serves outside the Middle East.

When Spaniard Alonso de Ojeda arrived to discover the lake in 1499 he saw "palafitos" or houses along the shore that were built on wooden stilts over the water. The land was thus named "Little Venice" or Venezuela.

Along the shore of what is now Maracaibo, Venezuela's second largest city and capital of Zulia state, the palafitos have given way to hotels, marinas and condominium complexes.

However, 45 km. north of Maracaibo, natives at the Sinauima Lagoon, at the mouth of the Limon River, still live on palafitos in much the same way they have for hundreds of years.

Colorful Guajiro Indian tapestries and hammocks can be found in indigenous markets at Los Fildos, half an hour north of the lagoon, on Monday mornings or daily in Maracaibo. (Reuters)

US fares that are low and unrestricted

HAIM SHAPIRO
TRAVEL TIPS

SPECIAL deals and low fares on airlines are often restricted to a certain number of seats or particular flights, but Tower Air's six- to 21-day round-trip fare of \$637 to New York is valid for all flights through March 31, the last return date.

The low fares extend to other US destinations: Miami, \$793; Los Angeles, \$835; San Francisco and Las Vegas, \$908. At the same time, Tower is continuing its two-passenger offer - \$504 apiece to New York for two people traveling together.

For those seeking the high-comfort deals, American Airlines is offering its business-class passengers to New York a free onward flight to destinations in the eastern US. For passengers to the West Coast, the same deal is available for \$49 extra.

Also benefiting are people who pay the airline's transatlantic upgrade fare, bringing the round-trip fare to \$1,419.

FOR THOSE seeking warmer climes, Arkia is offering a February special to Sharm e-Sheikh, with the price of a three-night weekend starting at \$309, including flights. A four-night mid-week stay starts at \$299, and a seven-night package is selling for \$664.

If you're willing to brave the European winter, the company also has a three-night package in London for \$384 and three nights in Paris for \$484.

THESE DAYS, there is hardly a city anywhere in the world without a Hard Rock Cafe. But the world's first Hard Rock Hotel is due to open in Las Vegas on March 11. Rooms are to be decorated with photographs of rock stars, and rock artists are to perform regularly in the hotel's 1,400-seat theater. Needless to say, the hotel will have extensive gambling facilities as well.

SABENA NOW has three daily flights in and out of Paris's Orly Airport, in addition to its flights to Charles de Gaulle. The company notes that the Orly flights are particularly convenient because they link up with French domestic flights on Air France and Air Inter, for which passengers can buy Euroflyer vouchers, starting at \$360 for three flights.

VALET SERVICE is among the perks offered by the Dan Tel Aviv in its Executive and Corporate Service to guests in its deluxe seafront rooms and suites. Among the valet's duties are ironing, unpacking and packing, and shining shoes.

Other facilities in these rooms include a private Jacuzzi, a stereo and CD system, video, and a computer with modem and fax. The VIP guests also enjoy limousine service to and from the airport or a North Tel Aviv parking lot, free golf in Caesarea, and a free Shabbat tour of Jerusalem.

All you knew about sex and wish you'd never asked

SEX IN AMERICA: A Definitive Survey, by Edward Laumann, John Gagnon, Robert Michael and Gina Kolata. Little, Brown. \$22.95. 300 pp.

MEMO to: Robert Michael, John Gagnon, Edward Laumann and Gina Kolata (hereinafter referred to as MGLK).

RE: Your book, *Sex in America*, subtitled *A Definitive Survey*.

COMMENT: No such thing as a definitive survey exists in logic. You either define or you don't. There can only be the definitive survey. And this is not it.

Even in 1987, when they first began shaping this sex questionnaire, the four authors of *Sex in America* were obsessed with randomness. They meant to achieve what the great Kinsey himself thought impossible: an exact model of socioeconomic and demographic America in miniature drawn by computer dice-throwing.

The computer picked 9,004 addresses. Of these, 4,369 had suitable folk in residence, age 18 to 59. Of these, 3,432 (almost 80 percent, MGLK proudly note) went on to complete the 90-minute, one-on-one interrogation. And, of that 3,432, a certain number were harassed - there is no more polite word for it - into taking part.

Here you have the academic elitist as bully: "Interviewers

used all their powers of persuasion, returning again and again to the homes of people who declined, in some cases even paying the most reluctant [as much as \$100] to encourage them to agree to be interviewed."

Professionally written "conversion" letters were sent. Some local college professor might be enlisted to call and advocate cooperation. The University of Chicago - which sponsored this campaign to its shame (Laumann and Michael teach there) - threw institutional weight around and set up a hot line. All this cost \$450 per interview.

Mind you, the most accommodating respondent will lie now and then on an intimate sex survey. But these miserable, henpecked men and women probably lied even more than usual.

The prose style of *Sex in America* manages to be both condescending and as insipid as a barium cocktail - when it doesn't just insult your intelligence. "Our method is neither unusual nor remarkable. But our method is right. There is universal agreement among all social scientists: this is the way you do it."

(Actually *Sex in America* was condensed for mass-market hype by Kolata from an even more pretentious 600-page textbook version, *The Social Organization of Sexuality* - which contains the complete survey data to absolute

BOOKS
D. KEITH MANO

bar-graph and pie-chart numbers.)

If, then, "this is the way you do it," one might with good reason ask, "Why do it at all?"

Certainly *Sex in America* has extruded "insights" which (when they're not flat-out wrong) are plain obvious, trite and pathetic. Take for instance, these lame platitudes of sexuality:

- What "seems to produce the highest rates of partnered sex is an easily accessible partner."
- People who get venereal disease "share one key characteristic: They have many sex partners."
- "Those who met in a bar are a lot more likely to have sex quickly."
- "Divorced people as a group

have more sexual partners than people who remain married."

- "The more educated people were, the more partners they had over their lifetime." (This is a sexual axiom known at least since Kinsey. Intelligence, imagination in particular, stimulates sexual activity. But even here MGLK miss half the point - education correlates with income and sex is expensive. Men who are well-off can hire a prostitute and afford divorce.)
- Sex life is influenced by social life because "we simply cannot associate with some people because we do not live near them."

Sex in America should be subtitled: "All You Already Knew About Sex and Wish You'd Never Asked."

The authors seem to have a stone ear for those exquisite (and not so exquisite) nuances that modulate human sexual desire.

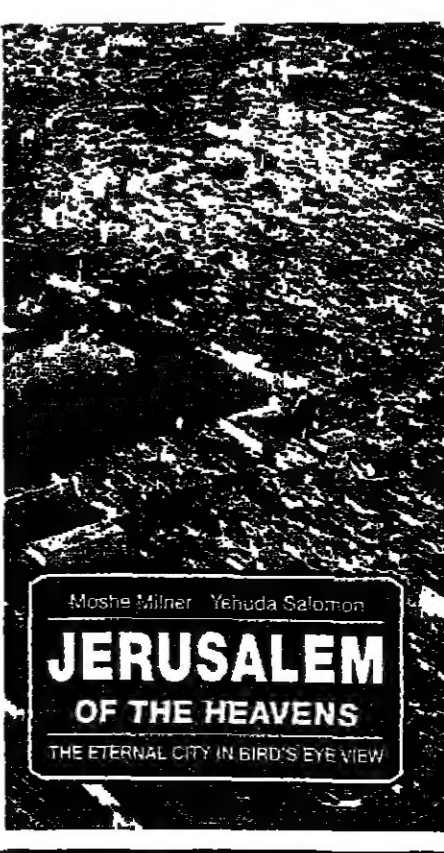
They're in the orgasm-counting game. And from this dismal inventory they conclude that (a) American sex is rather dull, and (b) Americans prefer it that way by a large margin. MGLK may be right in general.

Few men or women can live up to MTV's version of American promiscuity. But their inorganic, census-taker approach has led MGLK to perpetuate troubling distortions both of scientific method and of data interpretation.

Sex is not a thing. It can't be numbered. Sex slithers: it is fluid, aerial, protean and wholly fantastic. To use a humble simile, sex is like ground water surrounding a leaky basement. Stop it here, it will sublimate and come out there - to produce a good husband, a gay man, a celibate monk, a rapist, a voyeur, a great poet or all of the above at once.

(Los Angeles Times)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1995

Regev, Nagler remands upheld

TEL AVIV District Court Judge Amnon Strashnov upheld a Securities Authority appeal to remand money managers Haim Regev and Yoram Nagler yesterday.

Regev, investment manager of Bank Leumi's Psagot mutual fund group, and Nagler, director of Dovrat-Shrem Investments Management Ltd., were released on NIS 350,000 bail by Magistrate's Court Judge Nira Lidsky on Tuesday despite strong objections by the authority.

Lidsky also refused to postpone her bail decision until the appeal, and the two spent Tuesday night at home before being re-arrested yesterday morning.

Authority attorneys Reuven

Minkevich: They've confessed

RAINE MARCUS and EVELYN GORDON

Kovent and Michal Barak had insisted that Nagler and Regev were likely to disrupt the ongoing investigation if released on bail. The suspects' lawyers, Nir Cohen and Shuki Stein, however, argued that since the suspects had not disrupted the probe since first being questioned over seven months ago, there was no reason to believe they would interfere with the investigation now.

Strashnov ordered Regev detained for ten days and Nagler for six days to give investigators time to continue inquiries.

Meanwhile, Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court released on bail Nagler's assistant at Dovrat-Shrem, Yisrael Mor, who was also arrested in connection with stock manipulation.

According to Securities Authority chairman Arye Minkevich, the senior market players arrested this week have already confessed to criminal activity.

Minkevich, who was addressing the Knesset Finance Committee's capital markets subcommittee, said he expects indictments to be served against most, if not

all, of those now suspected of involvement in the affair.

He added, however, the indictments will probably not be served for several months, due to the complexity of the investigation. The accused are suspected of manipulating dozens of stocks which entailed hundreds of thousands of transactions a day.

Minkevich said he hoped all the criminals would be caught so the market could begin functioning normally again.

The passage of a law licensing investment counselors and portfolio managers, which is now being prepared in the finance committee for its final reading, would help to avoid a repeat of this occurrence, he added.

Shekem temporarily closes Holon plant

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

them full wages during the shutdown, at the company's expense," a company spokesman said.

Shekem's workers committee representatives said they were furious to receive news of the shutdown. Committee chairman Itzhak Moyal could not be reached for comment.

The Tel Aviv Labor Court is scheduled to discuss the Shekem dispute at a hearing this morning with Histadrut and management representatives.

Shekem's managing director

Amnon Dick criticized Histadrut chairman Haim Ramon's remarks that Shekem is a bad example of privatization.

"Someone is obviously misleading Ramon," Dick said. "It looks like no one told him that several months ago, Amir Peretz (Histadrut Trade Union Section chairman) and his friends fired hundreds of Histadrut members, including workers with more than 20 years of experience, saying they are unnecessary."

"Shekem isn't the Histadrut, and the new management will operate as a business," he added.

Shohat hands over Mizrahi share to Ofer

JOSE ROSENFELD

PRESIDING for the second time at a ceremony yesterday marking the sale of Bank Mizrahi's controlling stake, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat handed Yuli Ofer share certificates for 26 percent of the bank in return for a \$110 million check.

Shohat hinted at the previous sale to Gad Ze'evi, who later was disqualified by the Bank of Israel. "This is the second, and I hope the last time that we sell the bank's controlling stake," he said.

MI Holdings managing director Gil Leidner, responsible for selling the state-owned banks said, "We believe that today marks an important milestone in the bank sale process." He added that the weak stock market had put a crimp on the sale of Bank Leumi and Bank Hapoalim.

Shohat gave his blessing to the sale, using the traditional expression used by a father at his son's bar-mitzva. "Blessed be He, who has freed me from this burden." He noted this marked the second sale of a government-owned

bank, after Union Bank. Mizrahi's board chairman Haim Kubersky pointed out this was the first sale of a whole banking group and not just an appendage from a larger group.

Shohat also announced that on Sunday he will forward the proposal to sell 100% of Mercantile Discount to the cabinet privatization committee for its approval.

Shohat said he hoped that the committee studying the plan to distribute for free options on government-owned companies and banks that could later be converted into shares, would make positive recommendations. He added it would take several months to implement such a plan.

The Ofer-Wertheim consortium which purchased 26% of the bank's shares includes a number of companies controlled by Sami and Yuli Ofer, Muzi Wertheim, the chairman of the Central Botting Co., and Abe Feinberg. The group has an option to buy an additional 25% stake in the bank within a year-and-a-half.



Yuli Ofer (left) receives Bank Mizrahi share certificates from Finance Minister Avraham Shohat in return for a \$110m. check during yesterday's ceremony. (Israel Hareiz)

Abeles: Banks' massive loans led to '94 market collapse

THE massive amount of money loaned by the banks for the purchase of stocks contributed to the stock market collapse at the start of 1994, Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Abeles admitted yesterday.

He said, however, the central bank will publish new rules in the coming weeks to eliminate con-

licts of interest caused by the banks lending money for the purchase of stocks in their own mutual funds, and this should help prevent a recurrence of the situation.

Abeles was speaking at the Knesset Finance Committee's capital market subcommittee, which was reviewing the past year's events on the stock market.

At the end of 1992, he said, the banks had loaned some NIS 1.3 billion for the purchase of stocks. By October 1993, the amount had risen to NIS 1.7b., which,

EVELYN GORDON

Abeles noted, was still only a little more than 1 percent of the total credit on the market. However, by December 1993, the figure had jumped to NIS 3.2b. due to aggressive marketing by the banks. At that point, the central bank slammed on the brakes, and by the end of January, 1994, the figure had dropped to NIS 1.2b.

Subcommittee chairman Dan Tichon (Likud) charged this was the direct cause of the stock market crash. Had the central bank reduced credit gradually instead, he argued, the market would have received much less of a shock.

Furthermore, he said, the central bank should have recognized the danger signs much earlier, since there had been a similar problem of too much credit at the

end of 1992 during the period of massive oversubscriptions to stock issues.

However, Abeles indignantly denied the credit issue was the sole cause of the crash. There were a number of other factors, he said, such as disappointment with the peace process after "peace euphoria" had sent the market soaring in the fall of 1993.

Furthermore, he said, the central bank had successfully reduced credit during the days of the oversubscriptions by using economic tools rather than fiat, and it had originally hoped to do the same with the 1993 credit crisis.

While it is impossible to seal the banking system hermetically, Abeles added - especially since some of the credit deals are made in conjunction with organizations outside the Bank of Israel's juris-

diction - the new rules on the granting of credit should help. Other procedures instituted by the central bank have already begun showing results, he said. For instance, he said, directives to the banks' managers to conduct surveys to locate potential structural problems began locating some danger spots as early as 1992.

Tichon, however, was not satisfied, and said he would ask the state comptroller to investigate the banks' involvement in the 1994 crash. Tichon said he would even consider demanding a commission of inquiry similar to the Bejski Commission on the 1983 bank shares collapse, due to what he perceived as similarities between the manipulations that led to 1983 and the banks' competition to see who could sell the most mutual fund shares (by offering easy credit) in 1993.

'Interpharm owner can move some production abroad'

RACHEL NEIMAN

ARES Seroan, Interpharm's mother company, can transfer part of the local biotechnology firm's production abroad, the Tel Aviv District Court ruled yesterday.

Court president Judge Elihu Winograd decided to reject a minority shareholders lawsuit against the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) requesting that the OCS not be allowed to grant Ares permission to transfer part of its beta interferon production to a second site outside the country.

The judge also ordered that shareholders pay NIS 15,000 in court costs to the OCS.

Ares may move as much as 50 percent of its beta interferon production after January 1997 to a location closer to one of its two major markets, which are the US and Europe.

Interpharm attorney Jonathan Bach said the court had not accepted his request that the lawsuit be re-categorized as a derivative action.

Peretz: Fire TAAS board

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Histadrut rejected the recovery plan reached between TAAS-Israel Industries' management and workers unless the management and board of directors are dismissed.

Histadrut Trade Union Section chairman MK Amir Peretz demanded yesterday that Finance Minister Avraham Shohat fire the concern's management, board of directors, and chairman Dan Shomron for leading it into its current financial problems.

Peretz warned that as long as the present management continues to function, "there is a danger that the enormous public funds and the heavy price which workers are paying for this recovery plan, reaching \$800 million, will go down the drain, and

TAAS will find itself in a similar situation once again."

The \$800m. figure is the estimated expense for the concern's recovery program, which includes retirement and severance fees for 1,500 workers as well as benefits for the remaining workers.

"A management and board of directors responsible for bringing a plant like TAAS to bankruptcy, involving such huge sums, cannot be allowed to remain in office," Peretz added.

Jose Rosenfeld adds: The Treasury refused to comment on Peretz's demand.

According to reports, the government is considering a plan that would require the firing of about 1,500 TAAS workers throughout the year.

Indigo inks pacts aimed at label market

RACHEL NEIMAN

INDIGO has entered into strategic partnerships with a number of companies including Scitex, Avery Dennison, 3M, and the Moore Corp., the firm said yesterday.

The company also announced that its latest product, a six-color short-run digital press, is aimed at the label, packaging, and decorative printing equipment market.

"This is a beginning of a new era - the digital era - for the

packaging industry," Indigo CEO Benny Landa said. Label press manufacturers Gallus of Switzerland and US-based Comco will be OEM distributors of the product.

The company has signed agreements with leading label manufacturers Avery Dennison, 3M, and Moore for the development and supply of special formulated label stocks.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Panel expected to okay Dead Sea law today: The Knesset Finance Committee is expected to approve the Dead Sea Concession Law today to meet the deadline for submitting bids for the purchase of Israel Chemicals' controlling stake of 24.9 percent.

ICL workers declared yesterday they will begin taking work actions against the company in light of Beersheba District Labor Court's rejection of their request on Tuesday to postpone the sale.

The original deadline for bids was last week, but was delayed to give the Knesset time to approve the law that is essential to permit ICL's continued operations.

Two groups are bidding for the company, one headed by the Israel Corporation and one by Ted Arison. Amir Rosenblit

Restrictions for central bank senior workers: Senior employees of the Bank of Israel will not be able to take a job at a commercial bank within two years of leaving the central bank, according to a bill approved by the Knesset Finance Committee yesterday. The bill will now be sent to the plenum for its second and third readings.

The law is meant to prevent central bank employees, who are responsible for regulating the commercial banks, from being suborned by the promise of a high-paying job in a commercial bank upon leaving their current post.

The bill states, however, that the central bank governor may waive the requirement for a cooling-off period if he considers it appropriate.

Committee approves bond issue: [The Knesset Finance Committee] approved a bond issue by Leumi Mortgage Bank, after MK Ron Nahman (Likud) removed his opposition. Nahman had objected that the bank refused to give mortgages over the Green Line, but this turned out to be false.

Charge sheet filed against Avnir, Barton Planning heads: Tel Aviv's district attorney for taxation and economics has filed a charge sheet against the heads of Avnir Investment and Barton Planning and Manufacturing in connection with stock manipulation.

The charge sheet, filed on January 15 at the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court, is based on the Securities Authority's investigation of the firms' transactions in 1987. Owner and manager of Avnir, Gabriel Yitzhak, and owner and manager of Barton, Baruch Ba'al-Taxa, are named on the charge sheet.

Magor Holdings has purchased 7.2% of outstanding capital shares for NIS 7m. from interest holders Dani Zecharia and Mordechai Rotenberg. The company also has the option of purchasing an additional 11.5% of shares from them.

Joint fund with Tunisia formed: Israel's first economic delegation to Tunis announced yesterday it has agreed to establish a \$60m. Tunisian-American-Israeli-Palestinian investment fund.

Leumi, Hapoalim raise mortgage rates

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Leumi and Bank Hapoalim announced yesterday that they are raising rates on short- and medium-term mortgages this morning following the increase in yields on the bond market.

First International Bank and Bank Discount are expected to follow in the next few days. Tefahot, a subsidiary of United Mizrahi Bank, was the first bank to announce a rise in rates in reaction to the rise in yields on the bond market, which determine mortgage lenders' cost of money. Bond yields and prices move in opposite directions.

Leumi said it would charge 5.3 percent interest on mortgages for all periods, similar to Tefahot.

Bank Hapoalim said it will charge 5.1 percent interest on mortgages for five years instead of 4.75%. Hapoalim did not change the interest on medium- and long-term mortgages.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (25.1.95)			
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.500	6.000	6.500
U.S. dollar (\$500,000)	5.125	5.500	6.000
U.S. dollar (\$1,000,000)	4.875	5.250	5.750
U.S. dollar (\$2,500,000)	4.625	5.000	5.500
U.S. dollar (\$5,000,000)	4.375	4.750	5.250
U.S. dollar (\$10,000,000)	4.125	4.500	5.000

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (25.1.95)

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.	
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	2.9727	3.0146	2.92	3.3781	3.3781
German mark	1.9700	1.9977	1.94	2.208	2.208
French franc	4.7203	4.8843	4.68	5.369	5.369
Japanese yen (100)	0.0704	0.0704	0.07	0.804	0.804
Swiss franc	2.5221	2.5221	2.54	2.898	2.898
U.S. dollar	1.7827	1.7827	1.78	2.000	2.000
Swedish krona	2.5407	2.5407	2.54	2.898	2.898
Norwegian krona	0.3823	0.4029	0.39	0.44	0.44
Danish krone	0.4935	0.4935	0.44	0.46	0.46
Finland mark	0.0923	0.0923	0.09	0.09	0.09
Canadian dollar	2.0625	2.1221	2.06	2.37	2.37
Australian dollar	2.2774	2.3035	2.27	2.62	2.62
S. African rand	0.5422	0.5422	0.54	0.62	0.62
Belgian franc (10)	0.5269	0.5704	0.52	0.62	0.62
Austrian schilling (10)	2.0034	2.0429	2.00	2.28	2.28
Italian lira (100)	1.8524	1.9086	1.85	2.16	2.16
Jordanian dinar	—	—	—	—	—
Egyptian pound	—	—	—	—	—
ECU	3.7226	3.7226	—	—	—
Irish punt	4.7043	4.7703	4.70	5.36	5.36
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2586	2.2586	2.25	2.58	2.58

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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ANDRÉ LUMBROSO



The market, like in November, will go through price moves which are not related to fundamentals or even ordinary trading. On Sunday, however, the market should return to normal once the Maof expiration date is behind us.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

PARIS -French shares ended higher in moderate volume in mainly technical trade in a rebound to Monday's sharp losses and despite a mixed performance on Wall Street. The CAC-40 index was up 22.29, or 1.25 per cent, at 1,802.46.

TOKYO - Tokyo stocks closed higher yesterday as stock indexes were strongly supported by firmness in many construction firms shares, brokers said.

Profit-taking in the late afternoon ended the earlier gains.

Purchases of construction shares were mainly by individual

Sentiment was still mixed despite two days of rebound after

HONG KONG - Shares ended sharply higher in a technical re-

sharply higher in a technical rebound, helped by better-than-expected government land auction results. The blue-chip Hang Seng Index surged 217.82 points or

Index surged 217.82 points or 3.10% to close at 7,240.72. Turn-over was a provisional HK\$3.02 billion.

SYDNEY - The Australian share market ended lower on light volume despite the release of better-than-expected Decem-

her quarter consumer price index data. The All Ordinaries index closed 11.8 points or 0.63% lower at 1,850.3, its lowest close since

December 12.

up 8 4 points

WALL STREET REPORT

data, the index ended up 8.41 points at 3,871.11 after gaining nearly 29 points earlier in the session.

In the broader market, advancing issues led declines by a small margin on active trading of more than 342 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

	MARK	STERLING	YEN	SFr	FFr
MARK	—	0.4137/41	63.58/69	0.8412/15	3.4572/71
STERLING	2.4153/63	—	158.32/44	2.0312/40	8.3456/68
YEN	1.5242/55	0.6308/16	—	1.2621/38	5.2682/82
SFr	118.79/92	0.4918/23	77.50/95	—	4.1057/67
FFr	0.2621/94	1.1198/98	18.83/98	0.2431/36	—

	MARK	STERLING	YEN	Sfr	Ffr
MARK	—	0.4137/41	65.58/59	0.8412/15	3.4572/72
STERLING	2.4153/63	—	158.32/44	2.0312/40	5.3458/55
YEN	1.5242/55	0.6309/15	—	1.2821/38	5.2632/32
Sfr	118.79/92	0.4916/23	77.90/95	—	4.1057/57
Ffr	0.2891/94	0.1198/98	18.93/98	0.2491/36	—

Gold PM fix		
Silver fix	481.8	-0.2
Pastorian PM fix	438.5	+2.5

Months in parentheses signals contract exp. date

(Spot market listings are from approximately 22:30 latest time. All others are closing quotes.)

Commodity Trading Ltd. (Data 25-JAN-85)

[illegible][illegible]

Agassi, Krickstein reach semis

MELBOURNE (AP) — Andre Agassi and Aaron Krickstein scored a pair of quarter-final victories yesterday that ensured an American will win the Australian Open title.

Agassi, the flamboyant No. 2 seed making his debut in the tournament, continued his relentless march by downing 10th-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia 6-2, 7-5, 6-0 in just 83 minutes.

Krickstein then defeated Dutchman Jacco Eltingh 7-6(7-3), 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 in a match between two unseeded players to set up a semifinal meeting with Agassi.

Defending champion Pete Sampras will face No. 5 seed Michael Chang in the other semifinal.

It is only the second time in the open tennis era that four Americans have reached the semifinals of a Grand Slam.

At the 1979 US Open, Vitas Gerulaitis, Roscoe Tanner, John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors made the semis and McEnroe defeated Gerulaitis 7-5, 6-3, 6-3 in the final.

"I hit the ball well, executed well," said US Open champion Agassi. "It was a good day at the office." It was Agassi's fifth successive victory without dropping a set.

Krickstein, who is ranked 45th in the world, advanced to a Grand Slam semifinal for the first time since the 1989 US Open.

He used his clever baseline game to defeat Eltingh's aggressive net-rushing game and said he was looking forward to facing Agassi, who has won four of their seven previous meetings.

Aranza Sanchez Vicario earlier ended the inspired run of Naoko Sawamatsu and moved to within two victories of her first Australian Open women's singles title and the No. 1 ranking.

The top-seed from Spain defeated unseeded Sawamatsu 6-1, 6-3 to advance to a semifinal meeting with another unseeded player — American Marianne Werdel Witmeyer.

The 27-year-old Californian, who had not made it past the third round in 29 previous Grand Slam tournaments, downed her former hitting partner Angelica Gavaldon 6-1, 6-2 in just 56 minutes in an earlier quarter-final.

The other women's semifinal will be between No. 2 seed Conchita Martinez of Spain and No. 4 seed Mary Pierce of France, both of whom won their quarter-finals on Tuesday.

Sawamatsu, who is ranked 26th in the world, made the last eight despite the trauma of her family home being destroyed in last week's Kobe earthquake. She had dedicated her victories to victims of the quake and has vowed to donate a percentage of her earnings to them.

Sanchez Vicario, the French and US Open champion, qualified for her 14th Grand Slam semifinal — at the age of just 23. She will take over the No. 1 ranking from the injured Steffi Graf if she wins the tournament.

Werdel Witmeyer used her power from the back of the court to good effect against Gavaldon, going for broke and repeatedly sending the ball whistling past her Mexican opponent.

Werdel Witmeyer hit 26 winners to just one by her more conservative rival, who rarely ventured from the baseline.

Gavaldon, a 21-year-old ranked 96 in the world, made the quarters of the Australian Open five years ago, but seemed overruled by the occasion.

"I wanted to be the one who was being aggressive," Werdel Witmeyer said.



NEXT VICTIM — Aaron Krickstein raises the clenched fist after defeating Holland's Jacco Eltingh in the quarter-finals. The Jewish player from Grosse Point, Michigan will now take on Andre Agassi in the semifinals. (AP)

Ran, Erlich reach semis in Calcutta

HEATHER CHAIT

Eyal Ran and Eyal Erlich reached the semifinals of the Manners tennis tournament of the Indian satellite circuit in Calcutta yesterday.

Ran beat India's Naria Sushell 6-1, 6-2. Sushell had ousted Israeli Lior Mor in the second round.

Third seed Erlich had it easier when his opponent Cislav Djordjevic of Yugoslavia fell ill. Meanwhile, in Heidelberg, Germany, Gilad Bloom (216 in the world rankings) reached the second round of a \$100,000 challenge tournament.

After beating Holland's Martin Bok, German Patrick Baur and John De Lucia from the US in the preliminary rounds, Bloom beat Holland's Seng Shalken (148) 5-7, 6-2, 6-4 in the first round.

Hick out

ADELAIDE (Reuters) — Graeme Hick, England's most prolific batsman during its unsuccessful tour of Australia, has been ruled out of the remainder of the Ashes series because of a serious back injury.

Hick, who was on course to become the first England batsman for 24 years to score 1,000 runs on an Australian tour, consulted a specialist yesterday and was told he had a prolapsed disc.

"Basically the disc has moved and there is no way we could, or should, play Graeme again on tour," manager Keith Fletcher said.

The fourth Test against Australia starts here today.

England, already 2-0 down in the five-match series, can not now regain the Ashes.

Hick is the seventh player to have his tour ended prematurely and England decided yesterday to call for Mark Ramprakash as their sixth replacement.

All-rounder Chris Lewis, who has been playing club cricket in Melbourne, will take Hick's place.

AUSTRALIA — Mark Taylor (captain), Michael Slater, David Boon, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Greg Blewett, Ian Healy, Shane Warne, Craig McDermott, Damien Fleming, Glenn McGrath, Peter McIntyre, ENGLAND — Michael Atherton (captain), Graham Gooch, Graham Thorpe, Mike Gatting, John Crawley, Chris Lewis, Steve Rhodes, Jack Russell, Phillip DeFreitas, Angus Fraser, David Malcolm, Jock MacIsaac, Philip Tufnell.

SCOREBOARD

NFL — Tuesday's results: Quebec 5, Washington 1; NY Islanders 4, Philadelphia 3; Detroit 6, Vancouver 3; Calgary 6, St. Louis 4; Dallas 4, Los Angeles 2.

The Sports Pages are edited by Joe Hoffman

It's unanimous: Evert in hall

NEW YORK (AP) — Chris Evert was unanimously selected for enshrinement into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

"I came along at a time when Bjorn Borg and Jimmy Connors were coming up," Evert said Tuesday after being introduced as this year's only inductee into the Hall. "We all had a baseline game and a two-handed backhand. I was very one-sided, one-dimensional."

"It was all timing. I came along at a great time."

When she came along — she was 15 when she beat then-No. 1 ranked Margaret Court in a tournament at Charlotte NC, "where it all started for me" — the world's top players were all playing a serve-and-volley game.

"No one could hit three straight groundstrokes without hitting one into the net or out of the court," Evert said.

But she could hit stroke after stroke, finding all the lines, winning as much with her temperament and confidence as with her racket. Along the way, she began a world full of baseline-hugging, two-handed backhand-stroking

Chris Evert clones. "When I was No. 1 in the world and I was beating everybody easily, I should have tried to incorporate more variety in my game," she said, showing her only remorse. "I should have come to the net more, tried different shots."

"But that was my pride, my stubborn streak. I should have dropped my pride a little and become a better all-around player."

She was good enough to win 157 tournament titles — second only to arch-rival Martina Navratilova's 167 — including 18 Grand Slam championships.

Evert is the 44th woman and the 163rd person to be inducted. Only once before has a single player been enshrined — Evonne Goollagong in 1988.

A native of Fort Lauderdale, Evert became an immediate sensation in 1971 when, as a 16-year-old high schooler, she reached the semifinals of the US Open.

With her shy demeanor, blonde pigtails, near-perfect groundstrokes and poker face, she was immediately dubbed "Ice Maiden." But her victories — in-

cluding seven French Opens, six US Opens, three Wimbledon and two Australian Opens — made her America's tennis sweetheart.

Ranked No. 1 eight times throughout her career, Evert won at least one Grand Slam tournament title every year for 13 years — 1974 to 1986. She reached the semifinals or better in 52 of the 56 Grand Slam events she played.

Evert's 125-match win streak on clay from August 1973 to May 1979 endures as the best record of any player for any single surface. She was never ranked lower than fourth in her 18-year career.

Her off-court career also sparkled. She was president of the Women's Tennis Association a record nine times and has received numerous awards for her charity work. In 1985, she was chosen the Greatest Woman Athlete of the Last 25 Years by the Women's Sports Foundation.

Besides Evert, other players to be selected unanimously were Rod Laver in 1981, John Newcombe in 1986 and Virginia Wade in 1989.

Will the real Maccabi TA please take the court?

JOEL GORDIN

MACCABI Tel Aviv, still clinging tenaciously to a chance of making the next round in the European Club Championships, tonight faces a real scorcher, against host Real Madrid.

Maccabi defeated Madrid 93-85 in the first game at Yad Eliyahu in November. It was one of the Israeli champions' best efforts of the season, with Motti Daniel coming off the bench to score 26, second only to Madrid's legendary Latvian giant Arvids Sabonis who sank 28.

Maccabi could possibly do it again — but it depends which Maccabi takes the court.

If it is the Maccabi that beat Panathinaikos last week, there is hope. But if it is the Maccabi which lost to PAOK Saloniki, 79-62, two weeks ago, or 95-84 to Hapoel Holon on Monday, then chances are slim.

Maccabi's big trouble, on Monday at any rate, was the dismal form of Doron Jamchev. Only two weeks

previously Jamchev went through the same inadequate motions in a league match with Hapoel Galil Elyon. He and coach Muli Kazurin insist the Israeli captain is not going through a crisis and that the lapse is temporary ("stress") Jamchev told a reporter.

If Jamchev — assisted by Coleman — can rack up the points, Maccabi will be halfway to success. The second half will take place at the other end of the court. "We don't expect to stop Sabonis, who'll get his 25 points whether we try or not," a grim Kazurin said before the team left for Spain on Tuesday.

"We'll just try our best to curb John Arlauskas and Antonio Martin," he said. Probably not to dampen team spirit, he did not add that there still remains point guards Jose Antonio and Jose Lasso and outside players Pepe Cargill and Ismael Santos. Jose Barakov, at least, may not play due to an injury. The game will be shown live on ITV from 9 pm.

NBA can impose work rules — judge

NEW YORK (AP) — Antitrust laws cannot be used to stop the NBA or other employers from imposing work rules while a collective bargaining relationship exists, a federal appellate court ruled Tuesday.

The 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals provided legal precedent for the NBA that is certain to be used by Major League Baseball owners, who last month imposed a salary cap in the absence of a new labor agreement.

Baseball players want Congress to lift the owners' antitrust exemption, but Tuesday's decision, written by Judge Ralph Winter, could force the union to decertify if players want to mount an antitrust challenge.

In its ruling, the appeals court said the NBA's salary cap, college draft and right of first refusal do not violate antitrust laws and if struck down would leave the "teams in an impossible position."

Pippen ejected, Bulls lose

CHICAGO (AP) — Scottie Pippen threw a chair across the United Center court after getting ejected in the first half Tuesday night, and David Robinson and the San Antonio Spurs took advantage of his absence to beat the Chicago Bulls 104-102 in overtime.

Robinson made two free throws with six-tenths of a second left in regulation to send the game into overtime at 93-93. He scored 9 of the Spurs' 11 points in the extra period, capped by his layup with 1.7 seconds to go.

Toni Kukoc scored 28 points, but Chicago's most impressive athletic feat was Pippen's two-handed, overhead, cross-court toss of a chair after referee Joe Crawford ejected him with 2:56 left in the first half. Crawford said

Pippen tried on consecutive San Antonio possessions to get a 3-second violation called against the Spurs.

Shaqille O'Neal took advantage of Boston's foul-plagued big men to score 31 points as the Magic improved to 19-0 at home.

Donald Royal added 19 points for the Magic, who lead the NBA with a 33-5 record. The Celtics lost their fifth straight game.

Kelcie 105, Trail Blazers 99. Patrick Ewing scored 11 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter, rallying the Knicks to a 105-99 victory over the Blazers.

In winning his fifth straight and 13 of the last 14, New York overcame a career-high 36 points by Portland's Rod Strickland.

SuperSonics 116, Nuggets 89. Shawn Kemp scored 19 points to lead Seattle to its 10th straight victory and its 17th home win in a row.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Oakland	25	10	.714	—
New York	25	13	.659	0.5
New Jersey	18	26	.361	17.5
Boston	15	27	.357	17.5
Miami	13	29	.304	19
Philadelphia	12	27	.300	20
Washington	10	27	.270	21

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	25	14	.641	—
Chicago	15	21	.413	8
Indiana	28	18	.550	2
Chicago	20	20	.500	5.5
Atlanta	17	22	.435	8
Memphis	15	24	.385	10
Detroit	12	25	.324	12

TUESDAY'S RESULTS: New York 105, Portland 97; Orlando 110, Boston 97; Miami 107, Indiana 96; Detroit 116, Philadelphia 105; Phoenix 100, Minnesota 85; San Antonio 104, Chicago 102 (OT); Houston 115, Milwaukee 89; Seattle 111, Denver 89; New Jersey 106, Golden State 93; Sacramento 110, Dallas 109 (OT).

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	28	10	.737	—
Houston	24	14	.632	4.5
San Antonio	20	14	.588	8
Denver	18	22	.450	11
Dallas	10	22	.310	12.5
Minnesota	9	30	.231	20

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Phoenix	31	9	.775	—
Seattle	28	9	.757	—
LA Lakers	24	13	.648	8
Sacramento	20	18	.525	12.5
Portland	18	22	.450	16
Golden State	11	28	.280	22.5
LA Clippers	6	34	.150	25.5

Full-time Super hype hits Miami like a hurricane



MIAMI (AP) — The Super Bowl won't be played until Sunday, but nearby Miami Beach is hardly waiting until the weekend to start the party.

Cold weather may have cut into the number of people willing to pay \$100 per person for "Super Bowl Sundown on South Beach," but the show goes on.

There are bonfires, strolling musicians, rollerblading demonstrations, crab races, sand sculptures, and soccer, volleyball and fireworks. A stage on the Atlantic Ocean beach showcased popular American entertainers Iko Iko, Arturo Sandoval and KC and the Sunshine Band.

And, of course, there was plenty to drink and tasty food from 18 participating restaurants that offered entrees like sauteed corvina with cabernet sauce and farfalle with sundried tomatoes in tomato cream vodka sauce.

The outdoor party moved inside a few blocks away to the chic Amnesia International nightclub where Jim Kelly, the injured quarterback of the four-time Super Bowl-winning Buffalo Bills, hobbled through the crowd on crutches.

The 49ers and Chargers both had the day off Tuesday after concluding morning interviews

with most of the 2,392 members of the media credentialed to cover the National Football League title game.

The scene, as usual, was vintage pop journalism. No one was off limits (there were reporters interviewing one another) and non-football questions for the players were almost as plentiful as queries about the game.

Crowds thinned around 49ers like Ricky Walters, Steve Young, Jerry Rice and William Floyd, but the pack near Deion Sanders never dwindled.

Reporters from the American Journal tabloid television program roamed the sidelines at Joe Robbie Stadium seeking answers to such personal questions as: "Do you do your own laundry? Who's the fattest guy on the team? Who's the sloppiest? Do you ever get superstitious before a game?"

Players from both teams, however, said they will have their game faces on the rest of the week.

"My first time here I thought I knew how to deal with all this because I had been to bowl games in college. But I found out this is an entirely different breed," said San Francisco's Steve Wallace, preparing for his third Super Bowl.

"You've got to learn how to wade through all the distractions, like this scene," he added.

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Cantona kicks fan after being sent off

LONDON (Reuters) — Manchester United's Eric Cantona was sent off for violent conduct in the 48th minute of its Premier League 1-1 draw with Crystal Palace last night. As he left the pitch, the Frenchman took an ugly lunge at a Crystal Palace fan. BBC radio described it as a "kungfu" style kick.

Cantona was then restrained by stewards and his colleagues before eventually leaving the field.

Cantona had been sent off for kicking out at Palace defender Richard Shaw. As he left the field and

Court defers decision in wiretapping case

THE High Court of Justice yesterday deferred a decision on the state's petition to withhold certain documents from alleged wiretappers Rafi Friedman and Ya'acov Tsur.

The deferral was unusual, since this was a preliminary hearing, in which the court can either reject the petition or issue a show-cause order, resulting in a further hearing. At preliminary hearings, decisions are usually made on the spot.

The case was also unusual in that the state, which is usually the respondent, was the petitioner.

The state was challenging Tel Aviv District Court Judge Zecharia Caspi's decision to allow Friedman and Tsur to examine a number of statements to the police which, according to the state, are mostly relevant to parallel investigations rather than their case. Instead, the state said, Friedman and Tsur should be allowed to see only those portions of the statements in which they are mentioned.

Government attorney Shai Nitzan told the court that the state's main concern is that Friedman and Tsur would use the information to impede four investigations into related wiretapping cases. Two of these are likely to be finished soon, he said, but two - the so-called *Ma'ariv* and *Yedioth*

EVELYN GORDON

Aharonot investigations - are likely to continue for some time.

However, he said, even if the investigations were to end, the state would still object to giving these documents to Friedman and Tsur, because of the infringement of the privacy of those mentioned in them and the divulgence of business secrets.

The managers of *Yedioth*, for instance, told the police how many security firms they employ, how much money they pay them, and numerous other trade secrets, he said, and unless this information becomes relevant to a trial, it ought to be protected.

In response, attorney Mordechai Katz argued that material relating to other people could impact on the case. For instance, he said, there is a Bezek employee, a key prosecution witness, who claims to have inspected a certain site. But somebody else testified that this employee did not inspect that site.

In another case, Katz said, a prosecution witness was found in possession of drugs. Perhaps he incriminated Friedman and Tsur in a deal?

Justices Dov Levine, Eliezer Goldberg and Zvi Tal appeared skeptical of Katz's arguments, repeatedly demanding to know how

what one person said about a second could be relevant to Friedman and Tsur.

"What you're asking is that four or five other trials take place within the framework of this one," Levine said. "And you want this material to embarrass [the witnesses] and undermine their reliability."

Furthermore, said Goldberg, how can the court judge the relevance of this material when Friedman and Tsur have not yet replied to the indictment?

Once their response is filed, the court will have an idea of their line of defense, and it will then be better able to judge the petition, he said.

Much of the hearing also revolved around whether the state had the authority to petition the High Court against a district court decision. This would set a dangerous precedent, Katz warned, leading to the High Court being petitioned about evidence transfers in every criminal case.

However, the justices pointed out that this was a special case. If the defense is denied evidence now, they can ask to obtain it later in the trial, or even during the appeal. But if the evidence is wrongly given now, the damage to those mentioned in it cannot be undone.



Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau visits soldier Assaf Ben-Or, wounded in Sunday's Beit Lid bomb attack, at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem yesterday, along with the soldier's doctor and his father, Immanuel Ben-Or. (Avi Hayon)

Police confirm two terrorists carried out Beit Lid bombing

POLICE have finally confirmed that two terrorists detonated the bombs in the Beit Lid massacre, which left 19 dead and more than 60 wounded.

The terrorists were named as Anwar Sukar, 23, of Gaza, and Tsalech Hamid Mohammed, 26, from Rafiah. Final examinations of body parts found at the scene identified the two.

Central District Police have set up a special squad, headed by Dep. Cmdr. Yitzhak Tal, that will work together with the security services to try and determine if the two were helped by locals from Tulkarm, just 12 kilometers away.

Police would not say whether the two terrorists were disguised as soldiers, which would have made it easier for them to blend into an area full of servicemen.

They are also checking how the two arrived at Beit Lid. So far, there are no indications that they drove themselves there.

RAINE MARCUS, JON IMMANUEL and LAMIA LAHOUD

Palestinian security police are planning to arrest only suspects seriously considered to have been involved in the Beit Lid bombing, Gaza police chief Ghazi Jabali said yesterday.

So far 15 arrests have been made, according to a very senior security official.

Another high-ranking member of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service confirmed that the Palestinian Authority arrested Sheikh Abdullah Shami yesterday morning for the second time since Sunday's attack. He remains in custody.

Others arrested include Abdullah Shami, an Islamic Jihad spokesman and neighbor of the Beit Lid bomber, and Abdullah Zak, another leading activist from Jabalya refugee camp.

A senior Palestinian Police officer in Gaza said the arrests were political and were meant to send a message to the Islamic movements. He said if the security forces find evidence that those arrested were involved in planning suicide bomb attacks, they will try them under Egyptian law, which is still used in Gaza.

He said the PA was trying to get the prisoners to give them the names of Islamic activists involved in such attacks.

The officer said the police suspect that the attackers get their explosives from group members abroad.

Jim adds: Four of those wounded in the attack are still in hospitalized at Hadassah-University Hospital, in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem. Three are in serious condition. Two of the three are unconscious and in intensive care, while the other has regained consciousness. The fourth is in satisfactory condition and is out of danger.

Hefetz: Worshipers may be barred from Jerusalem during Ramadan

BILL HUTMAN

THE tens of thousands of Palestinians who come annually to the Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem for Ramadan prayers this year may not be allowed in the city for security reasons, Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz said yesterday.

"In the event that tensions are high, and we fear a large concentration of worshipers on the Temple Mount would be dangerous, we will have to prevent them from coming in, or limit the number," Hefetz said.

No decision, however, has yet been made. Hefetz added, on a tour of Hebron and the Machpela Cave to review security arrangements there.

Mohammed Nusseibeh, a member of the Higher Islamic Council, said "it would be a very unfortunate and serious thing" if there was a closure on Jerusalem during the month of Ramadan, which begins next week.

The council would consult the Palestinian Authority about the possible closure during Ramadan, and demand the PA pressure Israel to allow Palestinian Muslims into the city for the holiday, Nusseibeh said.

Last year a closure was in effect for most of Ramadan, after the Hebron massacre sparked con-



Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz talks to reporters outside the Machpela Cave yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

cerns that unrest would erupt on the Temple Mount if there were large crowds there.

"People want to pray, and the authorities have no right to prevent them," Nusseibeh said.

Asked about security arrangements at the Machpela Cave, Hefetz said he believed "it is impossible to carry out an attack in the Machpela Cave" given the new security measures there.

Goldschmidt won't run for Labor head

MK Elie Goldschmidt yesterday withdrew his candidacy for head of the Labor Knesset factions and the coalition, leaving MK Ra'anan Cohen, the deputy coalition, the sole candidate.

Goldschmidt said he made the decision after consulting with family and friends, "my friendship with Ra'anan Cohen is longstanding and transcends politics. Ra'anan is in his second Knesset term, and I am only in my first, and these two considerations convinced me to withdraw my candidacy."

Eli Dayan, who earlier this week resigned as faction and coalition chairman, called on faction members to unanimously choose Cohen as his successor. (Itim)

Husseini trying to get Saudis to fund Palestinian projects in Jerusalem

BILL HUTMAN

FAISAL Husseini, the senior PLO official in Jerusalem, wants to circumvent limitations on PLO activity in the city by getting Arab states to contribute directly to Palestinian projects in the city, Palestinian sources said.

Husseini is in Saudi Arabia this week to raise money for some of those projects, including the running of his Arab Studies Society at Orient House, the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem, the sources said.

The Palestinian leader has been in Saudi Arabia several times in recent months to raise funds for eastern Jerusalem institutions and development.

The list included new housing construction and renovation of Arab property and Moslem holy sites, largely in the Old City, the sources said.

The London-based Arabic daily *Al Hayat* reported yesterday that PLO leader Yasser Arafat told Husseini the Oslo Accords forbid the PLO and Palestinian Authority from involvement in Palestinian development in Jerusalem.

The newspaper quoted Arab sources as saying Husseini believed the limitations set by the Oslo Accords, and Israel, could

be avoided by having contributions made directly to the projects themselves.

The Saudis had already agreed to Husseini's plan, and even promised funding for several of the eastern Jerusalem projects, the sources said.

Husseini himself recently denied reports the Saudis had agreed to fund a long list of projects he presented during one of his first visits, saying that the issue remained under consideration.

Husseini's spokesman was unavailable for comment yesterday. Husseini is to return from Saudi Arabia in the next few days.

Shetreet: Bad data often used in state economic decisions

THE government often makes economic decisions based on faulty or incomplete data, Economics Minister Shimon Shetreet told the Knesset Economics Committee yesterday.

Shetreet, who was presenting

his ministry's multi-year plan for the economy to the committee, noted that this often impedes the decision-making process.

"The presentation of complete

EVELYN GORDON

and accurate data to the cabinet, as well as the presentation of alternatives, would help the cabinet in its decisions," he said.

Responding to a question by Avi Yezhekel (Labor), Shetreet said that the decision to stop public building in 1992 had been an economic as well as a political one, based on the assumption that the private sector would pick up the slack. However this assumption turned out to be incorrect: During 1993, most of the existing inventory was sold off, leading to excess demand of more than 20% in 1994.

Dr. Rafi Bar-El, director of the National Planning Authority, vigorously denied gloomy predictions of recession in the coming years. If the proper measures are taken, he said, the economy could grow by some 4.9% a year for the next five years, while exports could expand by 8.5% a year. By the year 2020, he said, Israel's per capita GNP could reach \$30,000.

However, he said, this required bringing Israel's behavior in line with that of the rest of the Western world, by reducing the government's involvement in the economy and lowering the tax burden to 36% of GNP (from 41%-42% currently).

Bar-El also advocated a devaluation. Lowering the cost of labor, he said, would help in the short term, but in the long term, only a devaluation could adjust the shekel's value to the inflation rate.

Dr. Robi Natanson, chairman of the Histadrut's economic committee, also stressed the importance of lowering taxes as a percentage of GNP. In particular, he said, taxes on the middle class must be reduced.

Committee chairman Gideon Patt (Likud), meanwhile, blasted the government for its lack of planning. The government's "new order of priorities," he said, has brought the country higher taxes, a bigger balance of payments deficit and rampant inflation.

Jaffa resident charged with spying for PA

RAINE MARCUS

A JAFFA man, originally from Gaza, was indicted on espionage charges in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

Samir Garboa, 35, was charged with conspiring to collect information for the Palestinian Authority that could harm national security.

According to the charge sheet, Garboa would regularly visit his friends and relatives in Gaza.

During one such visit last August, he was approached by the PA intelligence division and asked to collect information about collaborators who live and work in Jaffa and southern Tel Aviv. He was also asked to act as a courier for stolen weapons.

According to the indictment, Garboa agreed to both requests.

He has reportedly confessed and identified his controllers from photos shown to him by police.

The GSS confirmed to police that the men he identified are known to be PA intelligence officers.

A hearing meant to decide if Garboa will remain in custody until trial was postponed until January 29.

Egyptian mufti willing to visit Israel

CAIRO (Reuters) - Egypt's highest religious official, the mufti, said in an interview published yesterday that he was willing to visit Israel because Moslems could not achieve their rights by boycotting the Jewish state.

"It is my view that I should go to my enemy in his house and show him he is wrong and take all means that would help me obtain my rights," Mohammed Sayyed Tantawi told the weekly *al-Mussawar* magazine.

"I follow the principle that I should not be judged by my visit [to Israel] but by what I would say. I

would be taken to account if I wronged my religion or nation," said Tantawi, appointed by the state as final arbiter of religious issues.

"What has a boycott achieved practically? When I boycott my enemy while he occupies my land, what is the result?" Tantawi said. "Openness and candid confrontation are the best ways to obtain rights, while receding and keeping a distance is not reasonable."

Tantawi said that he had met with prominent Jewish leaders during a visit to the United States this month.

Exemption documents now issued to women who didn't serve in IDF due to surplus

EVELYN GORDON

WOMEN who are not drafted because the army has too many new recruits will now have this explanation attached to their exemption certificates, the state told the High Court of Justice yesterday.

It was replying to a petition by Cynthia Cohen, who was not drafted for this reason.

She had argued that she

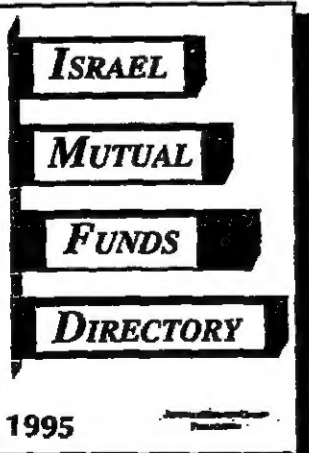
suffered from the army's failure to explain why she was exempt, since most schools and employers ask about army service, and prospective employers are likely to fear the exemption stemmed from a defect in the applicant.

At the court's suggestion, the army agreed this should be

changed. From now on, the exemption certificates of such women will state that they are "exempt because of the limitations of the call-up... for reasons relating to the size of the IDF's regular forces, in light of the growth in the number of people available to serve... and the IDF's inability to enlist all those available."

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